FINANCIAL TIMES

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NEWS SUMMARY

...ny ...it for ...rtar ...tory

...y in Ulster has ...a search for the ...ar factory, following ...ght's mortar attack ...nd troops in Belfast. ...icers believe the dis... mortar bombs ready ...g was not the site of ...they are looking for ...y an assembly point. ...vas made during a ...varehouse complex in ...c Markets area of ...e 9.

...nd Protestants stoned ...across the Belfast end ...esterday at the spot of ...mortar attack. Later ...it came under mortar ...were no casualties.

...is fire ...abs

...rity forces shot and ...vo men in Nablus, ...rusalem, when they ...on Arab students who ...g them with stones, ...o an Israeli spokes...ps also broke up ...ons in the Old City ...n and at Jenin and ...Page 5

...sses ...'s party

...Callaghan turned ...rsonal invitation to ...night's celebrations ...Castle of the Queen's ...ay to-day due to the ...work. Picture, Page 9

...doctors to strike

...and other specialist ...the Oxford health ...decided to strike to... on Friday in protest ...ernment's pay bed ...ior doctors are likely ...lem.

...ng flames ...s war'

...Brotherton, Con...P. for Louth, said ...es was "fanning the ...lass war" by calling ...pping of the House ...e TGWU secretary ...his speech at the ...C in Perth that ...laughable because ...ike the Ampthill

...s claim

...hairman said there ...nsive evidence that ...bestos in buildings ...l physical harm. ...ings in Deptford ...covered up as "a ...lence." Page 9

...e ball

...cent. of the total ...f Rangers Football ...ght at a Scottish ...ge auction by an ...arty for £295,845. ...s the premier divi... Scottish League.

...ries out subsonic ...n West Germany ...end.

...Ransom, 64, whose ...f "The Body" and ...Innocence," died ...erday.

...rker who rammed ...ith a tractor after ...ll him vodka was ...years.

...leaving London, ...the editor of ...9

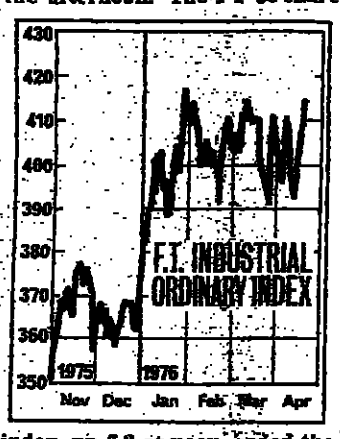
...reported missing ...ten trawler was in ...n oil supply boat ...eterhead.

...Somerset, thought ...aused by careless ...have destroyed ...trees.

BUSINESS

Equities rise 5.8; Wall St. up 15.35

● EQUITIES made good early progress, but marked time in the afternoon. The FT 30-share



index, up 6.2 at noon, ended the day at 414.8, a rise of 5.8 and only 2.6 short of the 1976 peak of 417.4.

● GILTS were helped by the slowdown in the growth of money supply, but gains were later trimmed a shade by sterling's disappointing performance. The Government Securities index improved by 0.28 to 63.30.

● WALL STREET rose 15.35 to 1,003.46. Buyers were optimistic after recent economic pointers, particularly the 7.5 per cent. first-quarter rise in the U.S. gross national product.

● DOLLAR'S trade-weighted depreciation widened to 1.73 (1.65) per cent.

● GOLD was unchanged at $128 in quiet trading.

● OPEC MINISTERS are expected to meet in Geneva to-morrow for informal talks on price differentials. Page 7

Swiss restrict bank-note imports

● SWITZERLAND is restricting the import of bank-notes. From to-day a limit of Sw.Frs.20,000 (£4,274) per person is introduced with certain exceptions. Page 7

● JAPANESE shipbuilders had 528 ships on order at the end of March, the highest total for a year, despite a sharp increase in cancellations. Page 4

● FRENCH capital gains tax will decrease the longer the assets are held, and allowance will be made for price inflation. Back Page

● PRICERITE name is to be resurrected by British American Tobacco for a chain of 44 shops selling a limited range of groceries at greatly reduced profit margins. Page 11

● BRITISH LEYLAND Board has authorised a further £10m. investment by the truck and bus group in its plants at Glasgow and Bathgate, Scotland. Page 9

● KODAK instant-print colour camera unveiled yesterday will be substantially cheaper than Polaroid's competing models. Back Page

COMPANIES

● OCEAN TRANSPORT and Trading pre-tax profits last year reached £22.58m. (£29.98m.) after a first-half fall to £10.23m. (£14.36m.). Page 20 and Lex

● CURRYS, the domestic appliance retailers reports pre-tax profits of a record £8.08m. (£6.86m.). Page 20 and Lex

● SPILLERS showed further improvement in the second half. Pre-tax profits, already £5.44m. ahead at half way, reached £15.47m. (£7.35m.) for the full year. Page 20 and Lex

● DUNBEE COMBEX MARX, the U.K. toys and do-it-yourself group, is paying £8.2m. for the American, Canadian and Hong Kong toy interests of Quaker Oats subsidiary Louis Marx. Back Page

...E CHANGES YESTERDAY

...unless otherwise ...ated)

...SES

Menzies (J.)	132 + 7
Metal Box	280 + 8
Newarthill	62 + 8
Ocean Wilsons	118 + 6
Pilkington	342 + 14
Rank Org.	170 + 7
Tate and Lyle	293 + 7
Tozer Kemsley	56 + 6
Tube Invs.	384 + 6
Union Discount	340 + 10
Youghal Carpets	90 + 8
Shell Transport	422 + 8
Ultramar	180 + 10
Charter Cons.	157 + 10
Cons. Gold Fields	172 + 12
Messina	270 + 40
Pot. Plat.	158 + 9
West Rand Cons.	190 + 30
Western Areas	198 + 13
FALLS	
Harrison and Sons	37½ − 4½
Coronation Syndicate	106 − 7

Government policy on economy backed at Scottish TUC

BY CHRIS BAUR, SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT IN PERTH

Left-wing unions were routed by moderates at the Scottish TUC's annual congress in Perth yesterday, in a heated debate about how the Government should deal with rising unemployment.

On a card vote, militants led by the Scottish miners' president, Mr. Michael McGahey, were defeated by 632 to 1,187. The motion on which they were defeated would have undermined the theme of Labour unity that has been so carefully fostered by TUC leaders at this conference in preparation for their negotiations with the Government on economic and incomes policies later this week.

The battle was joined on a resolution from Sterling Trades Council which included in its demands for reducing unemployment "an end to incomes policy measures like the £6 wage limit and any similar scheme."

This represented a second attempt at opposing incomes policy for those unions which now sense that they have lost the initiative on this issue at the conference. The STUC General Council has already adopted a formula which stops short of outright rejection of the Chancellor's plan to encourage wage restraint through tax concessions.

With the transport workers, the engineers and the general and municipal workers ranged against them yesterday, there was no way in which the miners, supported by the train drivers and other small unions, could carry the conference.

The efforts to minimise attacks on the Government's performance at the conference have been led by Mr. Jack Jones, TGWU general secretary.

This has already involved him in a three-hour session with his 25-man delegation, during which they have been firmly instructed to vote down any resolutions which might jeopardise the TUC's quest for an agreement with the Government.

Mr. Jones was loudly heckled from the gallery by four young men brandishing a "Right to Work" banner as he accused the promoters of the Stirling resolution of "dreaming and misleading."

He declared: "This is a real attack on the TUC and the Labour Government and a clear attack on the millions of workers who have made sacrifices and have democratically accepted the £6 limit."

He described as "quite unrealistic" the additional demands for a policy of no redundancies without the provision of alternative employment of equal status, and nationalisation without compensation of any company unable to ensure full employment at a living wage.

Mr. McGahey, replying to Mr. Jones's appeal for unity in the movement, said acidly: "Sometimes you only find unity in the graveyard." Trade unions were entitled to be critical about policies with which they disagreed and to seek "improved" policies without defeating the Labour Government.

The conference did adopt a fair measure of critical resolutions. On economic policy it called for reflation and wide-ranging increases in public expenditure in spite of a warning by Mr. Alex Donnet the Scottish Secretary of the GMWU, that unions would have to "face up to the inevitability of some restrictions in the growth of public expenditure" to meet the Government's priority of regenerating manufacturing industry.

Delegates approved demands for an easing of hire-purchase restrictions, for the imposition of selective import controls aimed primarily at cars, textiles, steel and television tubes, and for the allocation of substantially increased funds for the National Enterprise Board and the Scottish Development Agency.

The conference also accepted a resolution from the TGWU calling for pensions to be increased to not less than 50 per cent. of adult earnings for a married couple and 33 per cent. for single people. Mr. Jones proposed that North Sea oil revenue should be used to meet the cost of these increases.

Coffee leads jump in prices

By John Edwards, Commodities Editor

THERE WERE spectacular price rises on the London commodity markets when they reopened after the Easter holiday yesterday.

The fall in the value of sterling, and some sharp advances in U.S. commodity markets on Monday, combined to bring a fresh wave of buying, mainly from speculators, in London.

Coffee prices soared by over £100 to £1,351 a tonne, registering the biggest single daily rise since frost last July wreaked havoc with the crop in Brazil, the world's largest producer. In the past month alone, coffee prices in London have risen by some £500 a tonne, meaning that further steep increases in retail coffee prices are unavoidable.

Cocoa prices also continued to rise sharply. After having gained nearly £50 on Thursday, prices leapt even higher yesterday, advancing by over £63 to

Commodities Page 31

£1,045 a tonne.

On the London Metal Exchange copper prices jumped by £39 to £866 a tonne, in spite of another rise in warehouse stocks to a record level of over 534,000 tonnes. In late trading, copper was sold at over £900 a tonne for the first time since June 1974. Tin, lead and zinc prices also reached their highest levels since 1974, and there was a sharp jump in silver.

Colin Millham writes: Sterling fell over 1 cent against the dollar, to touch $1.8425 yesterday morning, but improved gradually during the day, to close at $1.8485, a loss of 45 points from last Thursday.

On Tuesday of last week the pound gained almost 1 cent on good commercial demand, which was believed to be the result of impending quarterly oil payments, and yesterday's sharp fall may well have been caused by switching of these funds out of sterling by certain oil exporting countries.

The pound's depreciation, as calculated by the Bank of England, widened to 36.7 per cent. from 36.3 per cent. and touched 36.8 per cent. at noon. Trading was reported to be fairly thin, and any support for sterling by the authorities was on a relatively small scale.

£ in New York

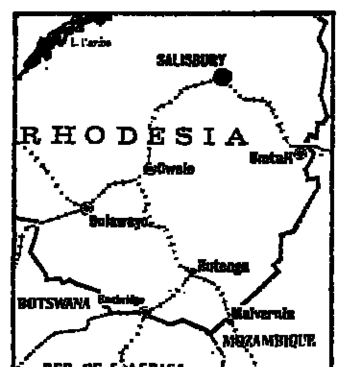
—	April 19	Previous
Spot	$1.8545-8565	$1.8610-8625
1 month	0.66-0.60 dis	0.66-0.61 dis
3 months	2.24-2.20 dis	2.26-2.19 dis
12 months	7.67-7.60 dis	7.65-7.55 dis

South Africa quiet over border deaths

BY STEWART DALBY JOHANNESBURG, April 20.

DESPITE widespread anger and dismay here at the week-end shootings of three South African tourists by guerillas in Rhodesia, the South African Government is not expected to react dramatically to the affair.

So far, there has been no official comment on the shootings, which took place inside Rhodesia on Sunday on the main road linking the border town of Beitbridge with the Rhodesian town of Fort Victoria.



It is possible that Mr. Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, who is due to attend Parliament to-morrow for a committee on the Budget Bill, will use the opportunity to make a statement but, if he does, it is thought that it will be low-key rather than bellicose.

Suggestions that the South African Government might decide to send troops back into Rhodesia—some 2,000 para-military police were withdrawn less than a year ago—are discounted by observers here.

One Afrikaner close to Government thinking said he "would be very surprised indeed" if the Government took such action.

Reflecting something of the frustration in Government circles to-day with the Rhodesian Government's failure to negotiate a peaceful settlement of its differences with the African population there, the source said that South African military forces were originally in Rhodesia to prevant guerillas infiltrating South Africa. "We never pretended they were there to solve Rhodesia's problems," he said.

However, newspapers here have given saturation coverage to the shootings, with editorials expressing horror at the randomness of the killings. While there was bitterness against the "terrorists," however, there was also a more qualified anger against the Rhodesian Government for its recent campaign to encourage South African tourism in Rhodesia.

Tony Hawkins reports from Salisbury: The main road from Fort Victoria to Beitbridge remained closed to-day as Rhodesian security forces continued their manhunt for the guerillas.

Police sources said they expected the road to reopen shortly and ruled out suggestions that motorists would have to travel in convoy with a military escort.

There is concern about the likely impact of the weekend's events on Rhodesia's tourist trade. This is an important foreign exchange earner, with receipts of some 28m. Rhodesian dollars (£24m.) last year when it staged a mild comeback after falling in 1974 to its lowest levels in more than a decade.

But in the first few months of this year there has been a renewed decline

On the Rhodesian Stock Exchange to-day, share prices were steady to firm and seemingly unaffected.

Little progress in move to devalue green pound

BY PETER BULLEN

PIERRE LARDINOIS, EEC Agriculture Commissioner, made little progress yesterday in his attempt to persuade the British Government to devalue the green pound.

After one and a-half hours of discussions with Mr. Fred Peart, Agriculture Minister, and with Treasury officials, he said he was going back to Brussels—but I am not going back a luckier man.

His discussions, similar to those he held in Rome last week, follow the crisis in the financing of the Common Agricultural Policy which has been caused by the fall in the value of sterling and the lira. These currency changes have led to a sharp increase in payments from the EEC's farm fund, designed to cancel out currency changes.

Payments of these monetary compensatory amounts (MCAs) caused by the fall in sterling is costing the farm fund about £25m. a month. The fall in the lira is costing a similar amount.

A simple way to ease the burden on the EEC farm fund would be to devalue the green pound—the Italian Government apparently has agreed to a devaluation of the green lira—because these are the representative rates on which the EEC's farm prices and MCAs are based. Such a move would be welcomed by British farmers because it would raise their prices but it would mean a big rise in the cost of food to consumers. As the Ministry of Agriculture pointed out yesterday, since the beginning of March increases in MCAs have been the equivalent of a saving of more than 2½ per cent. on retail food prices.

After the talks, Mr. Peart said he recognised the consequences for the Community's budget of the substantial increase in the MCAs on the U.K.'s food imports but added that Britain continued to take the view that the level of the green pound, as of other green currencies, primarily was a matter for the country concerned.

The situation may have to be resolved at a special meeting of the EEC Council of Farm Ministers which may be called before the next scheduled meeting on May 17-18.

A special meeting will depend on the outcome of the soundings Mr. Lardinois will be making to-day in Paris when he meets the French Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister, and also presumably the reaction

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Record 115 Queen's Awards

BY LORNE BARLING

A RECORD 115 companies received Queen's Awards for Industry to-day. The most notable is British Petroleum, for its successful development of the country's first major oilfield in the North Sea. The company is highly commended for its management achievement.

The awards, which have been re-named this year the Queen's Award for Export Achievement and Technological Achievement, again cover a wide spectrum of industry.

Mr. Matt Linning, manager of BP's Forties Field development, said yesterday: "In establishing production, the team has made a significant contribution to the advancement of offshore technology which can be used on a world-wide basis by British industry."

The Forties Field is now producing more than 100,000 barrels of oil a day, amounting to 5m. tons annually. By next year, output will rise to 400,000 barrels a day, meeting about 25 per cent. of the country's oil needs.

After a recent slump in the

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number of applications for the Queen's Award, this year's total of 1,721 was the highest since the scheme was introduced in 1966. It has also been announced that representatives of each successful company will be invited by the Queen to a reception at Buckingham Palace later this year.

Winners of the export award include many major companies whose performance has not improved as dramatically as smaller exporters, but which remain the backbone of the country's industry. These include the British Aircraft Corporation, Courtaulds, ICI, Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds and Tube Investments.

The Royal Ordinance Factories of the Ministry of Defence are one of the more unusual winners, being commended for their supply of goods to Commonwealth and other friendly Governments of a wide range of defence stores and equipment and technical advice.

Earners of invisible exports, such as Mercantile and General Reinsurance, are also recognised.

Barclays puts up its charges

BY MICHAEL BLANDEN

HIGHER charges which could hit about 2m. peronal customers of Barclays Bank and bring sharp increases for corporate customers were announced yesterday.

About 500,000 customers who enjoy free banking are likely to lose that advantage unless they increase the amount in accounts. The increased charges take effect from July 1 and will make their impact in December statements.

The announcement follows a successful application by Barclays to the Price Commission to raise charges. It is the first time bank charges for personal accounts have been increased since the era of free banking for most personal customers came in after price-cutting in 1973 and 1974.

The other big banks are expected to consider following the Barclays' example, although none of the other big three—Midland, Lloyds and National Westminster—has specific applications ready.

Business customers of Barclays also will pay higher charges and it is thought that in some cases they could face rises of up to 50 per cent. in the cost of running accounts.

It is estimated the moves could mean an increase of up to £20m. in the income of Barclays in a full year.

The new personal current account tariff doubles the amounts which customers have to keep in accounts in order to qualify for free banking. Now they will have to keep a minimum of £100 during each half-year, or an average balance of £200, allowing for fluctuations in the amount during the period.

Previously customers had free banking with a minimum balance of £50 or an average of £100. At the same time, the bank is raising charges for those who do not qualify for free banking.

Customers with personal accounts which do not meet the new limits will pay 10p a time for each withdrawal—cheque payments or standing orders instead of 7p though credit entries in the account remain free.

These charges can be reduced, however, if the customer keeps any balances in his account even if they are below the limit for free banking. An offset at a rate of 5 per cent. a year is given for the value of any money in the account.

Business accounts, where there is no fixed tariff but charges are arranged between the customer and his manager, also are being raised and Barclays says that these have been frozen under the Price Code since 1972 and in many cases have been unchanged since the late 1960s.

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FEATURES

ON OTHER PAGES

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LOMBARD

Food danger—the only answer

BY C. GORDON TETHER

ALL THE indications are that the world is going to have its work cut out in any event to organise an expansion in food production of the order needed to meet the challenge that will be *thrown down by the population* explosion and the continuing demand for higher living standards. The task is clearly destined to become a virtual impossibility — with consequences that, I imagine, there will be no need to dwell upon — if vested interest considerations are *allowed to interfere in the process* in such a way as to keep *output running* at a lower level than it need be.

Since the recent disclosure that there are fears of another *shortfall of wheat supplies* developing in the year ahead suggests that it is already much later in this sense than we think, there should be the widest possible discussion of the conclusion reached by the Fabian Society's recent report on the world food outlook. Which is that the real need is to bring pressure to bear on the major cereal producers to reach an agreement that would permanently safeguard the world *against recurrent shortages* in this crucially important sector.

In support of this contention, the report seeks to demonstrate that the shortages which led to such devastating rises in prices *earlier in the 1970s were not the* result of insufficient production *capacity but came about because* the leading exporting countries —*the U.S., Canada and Australia* —were leaning over backwards *to avoid high levels of stocks*, seeing the existence of "surpluses" as inimical to their interests.

It goes on to argue—and it is hard to see how the logic can *be faulted—that the only satisfactory way of ensuring that the world is not constantly* operating on a knife-edge on the food *front lies in the introduction of* a stablisation scheme adminis*tered* by an international authority.

Power loss

The big question, of course, is this: How is the necesary cooperation of the major grain-producing countries in the inauguration and operation of such a scheme to be secured? As the Fabian pamphlet itself points out, the attitude the U.S. adopted at the 1974 World Food Conference, with its emphasis on the provision of "food aid" to remedy shortages, suggests that Washington is not prepared to contemplate the loss of power over commercial markets which participation in a stabilisation scheme functioning under international control would involve.

Indeed, to judge by recent statements from Administration *officials having a special interest* in these matters, the U.S. may *feel* that there are strong political objections as well to such a surrender of the power over life and death which America's key role in the world food situation gives her. Thus on a number of occasions in recent months, it has been openly stated that the U.S. would not *hesitate to make use of "food* power" to encourage vulnerable *countries to see things its way* when vital American interests were involved.

A disaster

However, there is presumably some hope of getting the Americans to see that it can *hardly be in the interests of the* producing countries to allow the *present unsatisfactory situation* to drift on until it culminates in a *gigantic* disaster — and that danger must grow steadily more acute as the world's population moves up. And the point can also be made that, even in the shorter-run, their economies are liable to be inconvenieced — to put it mildly — by the considerable contribution that major increases in key world commodity prices make to the process of stoking up the fires of global inflation.

There is one other argument that should also be capable of doing good service in persuading Washington that it has a duty to the rest of the world to collaborate in providing security for food supplies and stability for food prices. It is that the existence of a substantial reserve stock would be of immense *assistance* in keeping the production of food advancing *in line* with the upsurge in the number of mouths to be fed.

There is little doubt that the position has been worsening steadily in this respect since the opening of the 1970s. And since it takes time to bring additional capacity into production, we may soon drift into a situation wherein such mistakes cannot be remedied in time to forestall disaster.

All would not necessarily be lost, however, if the Americans refused to play ball. A reasonably effective stabilisation scheme could be operated with the help of the Australians and the Canadians alone. And since both these countries have shown themselves concerned to be "internationally responsible" of late, they could presumably be induced to throw their weight behind such a scheme even if the U.S. stayed out.

SALEROOM BY ANTONY THORNCROFT

High price likely for Stubbs at Sotheby's next week

NEXT WEDNESDAY Sotheby's is disposing of the fourth, and final, part of the late Jack Dick's collection of English sporting pictures. In the mid-1960s, Mr. Dick, an American millionaire, spent almost £1m. building up the finest group of sporting pictures outside of the Mellon collection.

For over three years now, Sotheby's has been auctioning off the 230 pictures.

The final sale should be one of the best. It includes the famous illustrated painting, "The Duke of Grafton's Stallion, Mares and Foal" by Stubbs. The artist *painted nine slightly different* versions of this picture, and this *is the largest*, measuring 72 inches by 108 inches.

It was bought by Dick for £200,000, by far his most costly *buy, and the saleroom expects* a higher price next week. If it does top the high pre-sale estimate of £220,000 it could, with the new 10 per cent. buyer's premium, establish a new record for a Stubbs.

A detail from the famous Stubbs painting, which could set a record if it exceeds its £220,000 pre-sale estimate.

The current top price is the £225,000 paid at the first Dick sale for "Goldfinder."

Jack Dick's picture buying proved more remunerative than his business career and the pictures have already amassed over £2.2m., which has mainly gone to the U.S. tax authorities. The final sale should add a further £500,000 plus. Apart from the Grafton Stubbs, there is also one of the finest paintings by Ben Marshall up for sale—a portrait of Alexandre le Pelletier de Molimide.

This was purchased by Dick in 1968 for £56,000, which is still a record price for a Ben Marshall. The saleroom has put a modest £50,000-£70,000 forecast on the work, showing how some of the paintings which appeal mainly to British and American buyers have still to recapture the heights of the late '60s and early '70s.

Sotheby's is optimistic about this part of the Dick sale. The first caught the end of the picture boom and did very well; the second was less successful; the third sale a year ago showed a welcome revival. If the fourth part is also a success, it should spread confidence around picture markets which were slightly unnerved after the rather mixed demand for Impressionists earlier this month.

RACING BY DOMINIC WIGAN

Smuggler should earn Derby run

NO TRAINER has his string *in better form at present than* John Dunlop and I am hopeful *that the popular veteran, Belper*, will be another winner *for his Arundel stable in to*day's Ladbroke sponsored City and *Suburban Handicap* at Epsom.

Belper, a one-eyed son of Busted, was in particularly impressive *form in the early stages* of last season, obliging four times at *Brighton: and after* four somewhat disappointing displays he returned to his best form on his final appearance when defeating Amber Son by 1½ lengths at Newbury in October.

A strong, attractive half-brother to the Musidora winner Lovers Lane, Belper, a course and distance winner, is taken to oblige at the main expense of the locally trained *Kildoon*.

In an interesting race for the five-runner Warren Stakes, I *feel reasonably confident that* Lord Porchester's *Smuggler* will earn himself a tilt at the Derby by out-pacing Amboise and Quite Candid.

EPSOM
2.00—Blue Linnet
2.35—Smuggler***
3.10—Belper*
3.40—Tribal King**
4.15—Honey Blossom
4.45—Merry Cricketer

RIPON
2.45—The Old Pretender
3.15—Fleur Ami
3.45—Ribarbaro
4.15—H. School
4.45—Dark Stranger
5.15—Empress of Russia

WORCESTER
2.30—Lanky Lad
3.00—Braslee
3.30—Forty Lines

Smuggler, a strong son of that smart miler, Hiding Place, has *been striding out particularly* well in recent homework at West Ilsley.

Richard Hannon and Frankie Durr were in fine form here yesterday, scoring with Flying Sovereign and Royal Diver and I expect *Tribal King* to be another juvenile winner for them in the Hyde Park Stakes.

This bay colt, by Tribal Chief out of the Sing-Sing mare Harmony Thyme, made every yard of the running to beat Cambridge Star by four lengths in the Granby Stakes at Newmarket a fortnight ago. It will *come as a surprise* if he fails to achieve the double.

Mogul, unlucky in running when sixth of 16 on his racecourse debut at Newbury on April 9, is preferred to Glensilver and Switchback for the forecast.

GARDENING BY ROBIN LANE FOX

Willows and violets catch the eye

WILLOWS and violets seem to me to have made the most remarkable showing this Easter. The prominence *of the willow* matches the earlier prominence *of the hazel, also a catkin-bearer*. Perhaps it has not been exceptional, but has merely caught my eye as never before in a season whose warm weather has far outrun the willingness of the hedgerows to come into leaf. But the violet seems to me to be quite another matter. I wonder how many others have been puzzled by it too.

Violets, one usually thinks, like a semi-shaded site which is not too dry, where their leaves will not flag and where there is *less sign of the attacks of the* red spider which can give such *trouble to the five* named varieties. There are exceptions. If a wild violet called *Septentrionalis* is to flower properly, it must not be planted in soil which is too rich, a frequent mistake which has led many to underestimate a pretty plant. But generally one thinks of violets in ground which can shelter and sustain them.

Abundance

This year, in my own garden *and three others*, I have already been struck by the show of *flowers on old mats* of the wild white and blue-purple violet, *Viola Odorata*. I never recall such abundance before. More remarkably, these wild violets have spread into the most unlikely places, under rose-bushes, into open sun in gravel paths, through grass which is closely mowed. The past year has been exceptionally dry, but it has not discouraged them. Obviously they cannot all have spread to such a size in only twelve months. I suspect that many have been latent over several years, but that the recent dry spell has brought them into flower as never before. For one thinks of the more refined *Septentrionalis* variety, which is worth growing as an edging-plant for the sake of its fresh green umbrella-like leaves. Only if this is kept in poor soil will it flower freely. Perhaps the apparent increase in the wild violet is a new prominence in flower, not a rise in our national stock. But I cannot help feeling that the drought may have also helped the ant, a natural spreader of the violet.

Violets cannot be discussed without adding to the lament for the loss of so many fine old Edwardian *varieties. If anybody* has a large-flowered violet lurking *in an old* corner of their garden which has pinkish, red-purple or large pale blue flowers, they are urged to take a flower to a nurseryman and ask if he thinks it worth propagating. Alternatively, the Garden History Society is trying to rescue any lost varieties of violet and an approach *could* be made *to them*. The search is being conducted *as if the great old violets* exist and must merely be rediscovered.

Experiment

Some years ago, I was given a selection of the most famous varieties and wonder, rather, whether most of the missing kinds may not be missing beyond recovery. Like other florists' flowers, bred for the old penny *bunch of violets, these varieties* have not established themselves *with me for any long time. I am* left only with a few named kinds which are available, *sometimes*, from the small plant nursery attached to the fine garden of the late Mrs. Margery Fish of East Lambrook Manor, South Petherton, Somerset. If their stock, too, is not suffering from red spider they can still offer such old friends as Admiral Avellan.

A brief commendation, too, for the purple-leaved variety called *Viola Labradorica*. This flat-growing violet has the typical violet-coloured flower which is matched, or excelled, by the darkness of its leaves. I am trying an experiment of which I have high hopes. French gardens sometimes contain a small corner laid out to a checker-board pattern, where paving stones alternate with squares of a flat-growing plant. The contrast of stone and leaf looks like a chess-board's pattern of dark and light squares, as long as you can maintain it, weeding the plant squares until they are established and trimming them once they are settled. On a *small area, I am laying out* squares of this purple-leaved *violet, a local limestone* paving-slab and squares too, of the *steel-blue shoots of the prostrate* Acaena Blue Haze.

The latter is still a new plant in nursery catalogues, but I hope that nurserymen will do what they can for its popularity. It grows very freely at a height of about one inch and is conspicuous throughout the year for its metallic leaves the very best of the glaucous colours available. As with all these Acaenas, or New Zealand Burrs, a little goes a long way. A few plants of the purple-leaved Violet and the Blue Haze should soon give me a patchwork over a wider area. There ought to be a white-flowered form of this violet *somewhere in gardens*. If anybody has it, I hope they will spread it around, for its white flowers would go well against purple leaves.

As for the willows, I am not thinking so much of the yellowish young growth on the popular weepers as the furry pearl-grey catkins and grey-green leaves of the more shrubby varieties. If only the smallish *Salix Lanata* grew more rapidly, especially in its *Stuartii* form, I think we would see it as often *as the grey-leaved Senicio*. Its grey-green leaves and rounded *shape make it* a plant for contrasts and concealments. *In the National Trust* gardens of Hildcote Manor, Gloucestershire, groups of this small willow are contrasted with the rounded grey-green leaves of an excellent geranium perennial, hardy and known as *Renardii*. The two combine into a cover against weeds which is usually civilised in appearance.

Divides

I have copied this example and find the geranium, at least, not at all the awkward plant which some books suggest. It has made huge mats of root in a light soil, has survived one winter when I ripped it out and let it dry in a box in a cold shed and has begun to bear its quiet flowers of greyish white, although its leaves are the attraction to my eye. It divides early. The slow-growing willow could be replaced by the larger kind called *Wehrhahnii* (honestly) which eventually reaches a height of three to four feet, spreading outwards for a similar span. Its catkins are spectacular and I am very fond of it. It is not as bold as the flowers of a daffodil, but gardeners who are patient and have a liking for the quieter sort of plant will find it an excellent match for any slope or border.

TV/Radio

† Indicates programme in black and white

BBC 1

9.55 a.m. The Wombles. 10.00 Adventures in the Danubo Delta. 10.25 Asterix the Gaul. 10.45 Where Water is Plentiful. 12.45 p.m. News. 1.00 Pebble Mill. 1.45 Mary, Mungo and Midge. 3.30 Day and Night. 3.58 *Regional News* (except London). 4.00 Play School. *4.25 Astronut. 4.30 Jackanory.* 4.45 Country Search. 5.05 John Craven's Newsround. 5.10 Seven Little Australians. 5.40 Magic Roundabout.

5.45 News.
6.00 Nationwide.
†6.40 The Wednesday Film: "Here Come the Co-eds," starring Bud Abbott and Lou Costello.
8.10 The Survivors.
9.00 News.
9.25 John MacNab.
10.05 Sportsnight.
10.55 To-night.
11.30 The Sky At Night.
11.45 Weather/Regional News.

All Regions as BBC-1 except at the following times:—

Wales—5.10-5.30 p.m. Mae Gen I Stori. 5.30-5.40 Captain Pugwash. 6.00-6.40 Wales To-day. 6.40-7.10 Heddiw. 7.10-7.40 Pobol Y Cwm. 7.40-8.10 The Burke Special. 11.45 News and Weather for Wales.

Scotland—6.00-6.40 p.m. Reporting Scotland. (6.20-6.35 Scottish TUC Report). 10.05-10.55 Sportscene. 11.45 News Summary and Weather for Scotland.

Northern Ireland—3.58-4.00 p.m. Northern Ireland News. 6.00-6.40 Scene Around Six. 10.55-11.25 *Spotlight on what matters to* people in Northern Ireland. 11.25 *News and Weather for Northern* Ireland.

England—6.00-6.40 p.m. Look North (from Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle); Midlands To-day (from Birmingham); Look East (from Norwich); Points West (from Bristol); South To-day (from Southampton); Spotlight South-West (from Plymouth).

BBC 2

10.35 a.m. Nai Zindagi Naya Jeevan.
11.00 Play School.
7.05 p.m. I See What You Mean.
7.20 Weather.
7.30 Newsday.
8.00 Gardeners' World.
8.30 The Traditional World of Islam.
9.00 The Country Game.
9.25 "Where Adam Stood," by Dennis Potter.
10.40 Rutland Week-end Television.
11.10 Newsnight.
11.25-11.30 Closedown: Ronald Pickup reads "There are Roughly Zones," by Robert Frost.

LONDON

9.30 a.m. Out of School. 11.00 Cartoon Time. 11.10 The Violin. 11.35 The Amazing World of Kreskin. 12.00 Here Comes Mumfie. 12.10 p.m. Pipkins. 12.30 Three Little Words. 1.00 First Report: News, FT index. 1.20 Lunch-time To-day. 1.30 Couples. 2.00 Good Afternoon. 2.30 Racing from Epsom. 3.55 General Hospital. 4.25 Runaround. 4.50 The Molly Wopsies. 5.20 The Flintstones.

5.50 News from ITN.
6.00 To-day.
6.35 Crossroads.
7.00 This Is Your Life.
7.30 Coronation Street.
8.00 The Benny Hill Show.
9.00 Luke's Kingdom.
10.00 News.
10.30 Wednesday Special — Survival.
11.30 Wrestling.
12.00 What the Papers Say.
12.15 a.m. Spare Time.

All ITV Regions as London except at the following times:—

ANGLIA

11.00 a.m. *The Woody Woodpecker Show.* 11.30 A Man and his Countryside. 1.25 p.m. Anglia News. 2.00 Houseparty. 5.20 The Merrie Melodies Show. 6.00 About Anglia. 12.00 The Big Question.

ATV MIDLANDS

11.00 a.m. Hammy Hamster's Adven*tures on the Riverbank. 11.25 Untamed* World. 11.50 Dodo and the Space Kid. 1.20 p.m. ATV Newsdesk. 5.20 ATV Today I, *including Junior Police Five.* 6.00 ATV Today II.

BORDER

11.00 a.m. Dodo the Space Kid. 11.05 Dusty's Trail. 11.35 A Man and his Countryside. †1.20 p.m. Border News. 5.20 The Partridge Family. 6.00 Border News and *Lookaround.* †11.55 Border News Summary.

CHANNEL

1.20 p.m. Channel Lunchtime News and What's On Where. 5.20 The Partridge Family. 6.00 Channel News. 6.10 The Amazing Chan and the Chan Clan. 11.55 *News and Weather in French* followed by Epilogue.

GRAMPIAN

11.30 a.m. Documentary (A Man and His Countryside). 1.20 p.m. Grampian News Headlines. 5.20 Return to the Planet of the Apes. 5.45 Police Newsroom. 6.00 Grampian Today. 12.00 Evening Prayers.

GRANADA

11.00 a.m. *History Around You.* 11.15 Animated Classics. 1.20 p.m. This Is Your Right. 3.15 Take Kerr. 5.20 Crossroads. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.30 University Challenge. 11.30 What the Papers Say. 11.45 Wrestling.

HTV

11.30 a.m. A Man and His Countryside. 12.30 p.m. The Galloping Gourmet. 1.20 Report West Headlines. 1.25 Report Wales Headlines. 2.00 Houseparty. 5.20 Daily Fable. 5.25 Crossroads. 6.01 Report West. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30 Three Little Words.

HTV Cymru/Wales—As General Service except: 1.20-1.25 p.m. Penawdau Newyddion Y Dydd. 4.25-4.50 Rhifeddodau. 6.00-6.15 Y Dydd.

HTV West—As HTV General Service *except:* 1.20-1.30 p.m. Report West Headlines. 6.01-6.30 Report West.

SCOTTISH

11.00 a.m. Jack Rabbit. 11.30 A Man and his Countryside. *11.25 p.m. Road and Weather Report.* 2.00 Housecall. 5.20 Professor Kitzel. 5.25 Crossroads. 6.00 *Scotland Today. 6.30 University Challenge.* 12.00 Late Call.

SOUTHERN

11.00 a.m. The Nature of Things. 11.25 *Porky Pig.* 11.35 A Man and His Countryside. 1.20 p.m. Southern News. 2.00 Houseparty. 5.20 Bone for a Bone. 5.25 *Crossroads. 6.00 Day By Day.* 12.00 Southern News Extra.

TYNE TEES

9.25 a.m. Starting Point. 11.00 Curly *and Coconut. 11.20 Make a Wish.* 11.35 A Man and His Countryside. 1.20 p.m. Lunchtime News and Lookaround. 2.00 Women Only. 5.20 The Flintstones. 6.00 Today at Six. 11.30 Epilogue.

ULSTER

11.30 a.m. A Man and His Countryside. *1.20 p.m. Ulster News Headlines* followed by Lunchtime. 4.23 Ulster News Headlines. 5.20 Fantastic Voyage. 6.00 UTV Reports.

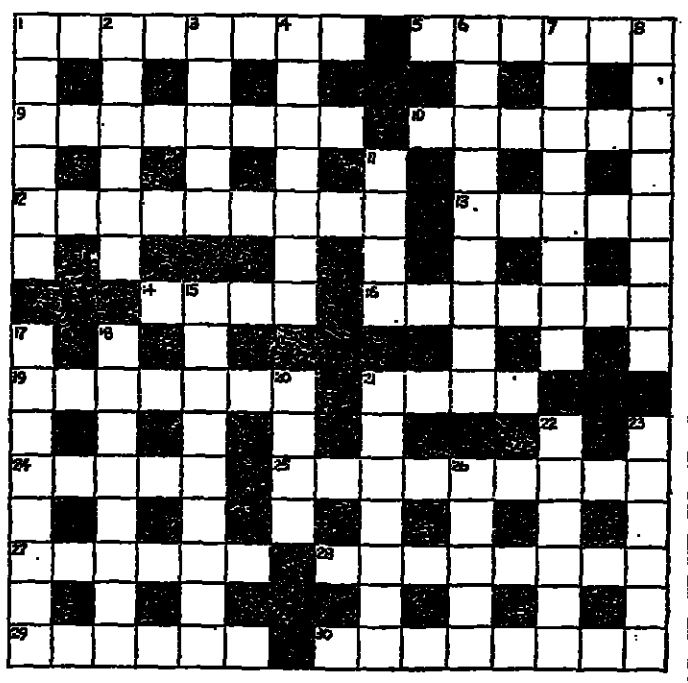
WESTWARD

11.00 a.m. The Beachcombers. 11.30 Documentary (A Man and His Countryside). 12.25 p.m. Gus Honeybun's Birthdays. 1.20 Westward News Headlines. 5.20 The Partridge Family. 6.00 *Westward Diary.* 11.55 Westward Late News. 11.58 Faith for Life.

YORKSHIRE

11.05 a.m. Robin Hood. 12.30 p.m. Here Comes the Future. 1.20 Calendar News. 5.20 Calendar. 6.00 Calendar.

F.T. CROSSWORD PUZZLE No. 3,059



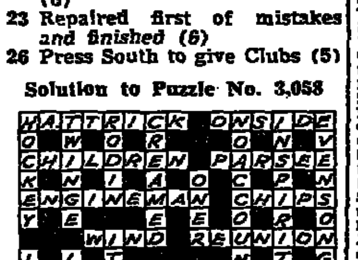
ACROSS

1 Revolting—using volts? (8)
5 Render powerless and conciliate (6)
9 Left to choice but it's not compulsory (8)
10 Displease or violate a law (6)
12 Extracted something necessary (9)
13 A bit secluded . . . (5)
14 . . . to sell what is left in confusion (4)
16 Outing permitted for one of three (7)
19 Morally bound and did a favour (7)
21 Lots round the maypole? No, just one pole in May (4)
24 Support for a bunch of flowers (5)
25 Frank took in applicant (9)
27 A national associated with ink and file (6)
28 Tasted and saved our inside (8)
29 Receiver little Edward deserved (6)
30 Considered certain to be in old wine (8)

DOWN

1 Push left for gardening tool . . (6)
2 . . but it's blunt and greater than a right angle (6)
3 Understood some of book. Now? Never! (5)
4 Getting closer to north-east with a telephone call (7)
6 *Blowing up but reducing the* value of money (9)
7 Ready to be led so let it be competent (8)
8 Think about interceding with their leader inside (8)
11 Plan a secret scheme . . . (4)
15 Member is behind time to make laws (9)
17 Wine going to party is left at sea (4, 4)
18 Struggle awkwardly and fish . . . (8)
20 . . . fish with duke and star performer (4)
21 Charge chap with appointment (7)
22 Brighter and more equitable (6)
23 Repaired first of mistakes *and finished* (6)
26 Press South to give Clubs (5)

Solution to Puzzle No. 3,058



RADIO 1 247m

(S) Stereophonic broadcast

5.58 a.m. As Radio 2. 6.00 As Radio 2. 7.00 Noel Edmonds. 9.00 Tony Blackburn. 11.00 Rosko with The Radio 1 Roadshow from the Town Hall Square, Leicester. 12.30 p.m. Newsbeat. 12.45 Johnnie Walker. 2.02 David Hamilton (S) (also on VHF). 4.30 It's D.L.T. OK! 5.45 Newsbeat. 6.02 *Sam Costa (S) (joins Radio 2).* 11.00 John Peel (S) (also on VHF). 12.00-12.05 a.m. As Radio 2.

RADIO 2 1,500m and VHF

5.58 a.m. Queen's Birthday, loyal *greetings. 6.00 a.m. News Summary.* 6.02 Colin Berry (S) including 6.15 Pause for Thought. 7.02 Terry Wogan (S) including *8.27 Racing Bulletin 8.45 Pause for* Thought. 9.02-11.30 Pete Murray's Open House (S) including 10.30 Waggoners' Walk. *11.30 Jimmy Young (S).* 1.55 p.m. Good Listening (VHF). 2.02 David Hamilton (S) as Radio 1 but including on 1,500m. only (also 202m. *Scotland*) 2.45 Sports Desk. Racing from Epsom and 3.45 Sports Desk. 4.30 Waggoners' Walk. 4.45 Sports Desk. 4.47 Sam Costa (S) including 5.45 Sports Desk. 6.45 Sports Desk. 7.02 The News Huddlines starring Roy Hudd. 7.30 The Great American Railroad. 8.02 Two in Mind (S). 8.30 Sing Something Simple (S). 9.02 Command Performance (S). 10.02 Sports Desk. 10.05 Words and Music (S) 11.02 Jean Challis with The Late Show (1,500m only, also 202m. Scotland. VHF joins Radio 1). 12.00-12.05 a.m. News.

RADIO 3 464m, Stereo & VHF

7.00 a.m. News. 7.05 Your Midweek Choice part 1: Mendelssohn, Arriaga, Ravel (S). 8.00 News. 8.05 Your Midweek Choice part 2: Vaughan Williams, Beethoven (S). 9.00 *News.* 9.05 *This* Week's Composers: The Late Venetians (S). 9.45 Music for Organ (S). 10.25 Voice and Harpsichord recital (S). 11.15 Cardiff Midday Prom part 1: Berwald, Dvorak (S). 12.10 p.m. In Short (talk). 12.20 Concert part 2: Shostakovich (S). *1.00 News. 2.05 Concert Hall (S).* 2.00 Royal Repertoire ballet music by Tchaikovsky (S). 4.00 *Mozart* chamber music concert (S). 5.00 Choral Evensong. 5.45 Homeward Bound (S). 6.05 News. 6.10 Homeward Bound (continued). 6.30 Lifelines: Language and Communication. 7.30 Mankind's Music. 8.00 BBC Symphony Orchestra part 1: Bartok, Mozart (S). 8.50 The Arts Worldwide. 9.10 Concert part 2: Elgar (S). 10.15 Scientifically Speaking. 11.00 Jazz in Britain (S). 11.25 News.

RADIO 4

434m, 330m, 285m and VHF
Medium Wave only

6.20 a.m. News. 6.22 Farming Today. 6.40 Prayer for the Day. 6.45 Today *including 6.50 VHF Regional News.* 6.55 Weather, programme news. 7.00 News and more of Today including 7.27 Sports-desk. 7.35 Today's *Papers.* 7.45 *Thought* for the Day. 7.50 VHF Regional News. 7.55 Weather, programme news. 8.00 News and more of Today including 8.27 *Sports*desk. 8.35 Today's Papers. 8.45 A.M. with A.J. 9.00 News. 9.05 The Living World. 9.35 Finger on the Pulse. 10.00 News. 10.05 In Britain Now. 10.30 Daily Service. 10.45 Morning Story. 11.00 News. 11.05 Round Britain Quiz. 11.30 Thirty-Minute Theatre (S). 12.00 News. 12.02 p.m. You and Yours. 12.27 Brain of Britain 1976. 12.55 Weather, programme news VHF (except London and SE) Regional News. 1.00 The World At One. 1.30 The Archers. 1.45 Woman's Hour including 2.00-2.02 News. 2.45 Listen With Mother. 3.00 *News.* 3.05 *Afternoon* Theatre (S). 4.00 News. 4.05 Mr. Lear and the Laureate. 4.35 Story Time. 5.00 PM Reports. 5.50 Financial Report VHF Regional News. 5.55 Weather; programme news. 6.00 News. 6.15 Oh, Get On With It starring Kenneth Williams. 6.45 The Archers. 7.00 *News Desk.* 7.30 It's Your Line: The National Theatre: ring Robin Day to put your questions to Peter Hall. 8.30 *The Riddle of Birdhurst Rise* (S). 9.30 Kaleidoscope. 9.59 Weather. 10.00 The World Tonight. 10.45 A Book at Bedtime. 11.00 The Financial World Tonight. 11.15 How Many Is Too Many? 11.30 News.

BBC Radio London

206m and 94.9 VHF

6.00 a.m. As Radio 2. 6.30 Susie Barnes with Rush Hour. 9.00 Richard Vaughan with *Downtown.* 11.03 *In Town.* 12.03 p.m. Robbie Vincent's Call In including 12.05 London News Desk. 2.03 Nick Handel with 206 Showcase. 4.03 *In the* News. 4.32 Tony Fish with Home Run including 5.00 and 6.00 London News Desk. 7.00 In Town. 8.00 Quest. 8.30 Soul 17. 10.03 David Simmons' Late Night London. 12.00-12.05 a.m. As Radio 2.

London Broadcasting

261m and 97.3 VHF

5.00 a.m. Morning Music. 6.00 "AM" breakfast-time show. 10.00 Brian Hayes. 1.00 p.m. *Newswatch.* 3.00 *Newsbreak.* 7.30 Jazz in Stereo. 9.00 Nightline. 1.00-4.30 a.m. Nightwatch—news every half-hour.

Capital Radio

194m and 95.8 VHF

6.00 a.m. Graham Dene: the breakfast show. 9.00 Tony Myatt. 12.00 Dave Cash: Cash on Delivery. 3.00 p.m. Roger Scott. 7.00 Jane Walmsley and Bryan Wolfe: *London To-day.* 7.30 Adrian Love: open line. 9.00 Nicky Horne. 11.00 The Late Show. 2.00 a.m. Night Flight.

Under the umbrella

by CHRIS DUNKLEY

respecting television can make do with le any more: two titles to be the minimum. s obviously considered Open TV Times at and on just one page *Little Bit Of Wisdom* *Double Trouble*. This l by *Tuesday Film* sub-titled *Firehouse*, *Britain* subtitled *The* rs, *News At 10* which dmirably brief and *Matter Of Life* para-ub-titled *A Dying Art*, ief and (so far as the cerned, anyway) very le *Drive-In*, and then t *Barnaby Jones* sub-er-Go-Round.

this simply an ITV n. Open Radio Times ne week and on one id *The Detectives* sub-ry O, *Omnibus*. In sub-titled *Cuckoo*, sub-titled *Kojak and* *Midweek Cinema* sub-a *Madigan*, and *Net-*titled *Vivian Whiteley* *Down*.

roliferation is not g's answer to extreme itles such as *Oh Dad Momma's Hung You* *set And I'm Feeling* ere is a special significance in the growth of umbrella titles on television.

"Slots" is the name of the game and "Habit Forming" is the sub-title. Long, long gone are the days when various people made various programmes under various titles, lasting anything from 7 minutes to 47, which could then be broadcast entirely in their own right, taking up whatever air space they merited. That system meant that if you were to have any fixed points in the evening at all (the beginning of the news, say) you had to fill in the odd little spaces that were left with restful bits of film of The Potter's Wheel, or a waterfall.

But if you suggested to today's programme or channel controllers that they adopt a similar system they would have hysterics, imagining the viewing millions lurching from their armchairs as The Potter's Wheel came on, to switch channels and find some more action elsewhere. The modules must fit tightly together nowadays, so that no excuses are given for button punching; and so that we all learn to identify and return regularly to the modules—like the brand-conscious smoker always demanding the familiar make—single documentaries are shoe-horned into slots with collective titles (*Network* for example) and the same is done for one-off dramas (*Plays For Britain* for instance).

The result is that when the slot is 60 minutes long, as *Plays For Britain* is, and the playwright happens to have enough good material to make a 25-minute play, as Roger McGough did in *The Lifeswappers*, we have to have 35 minutes of waffle inflicted upon us in order that the slot should be filled. How much more restful and recuperative The Potter's Wheel would be; and how much more impressive the play, shorn of its padding.

★

Dramatists and documentary producers really should be permitted to work to their natural length, and if the problem is to fill in the odd gaps between regularly scheduled programmes without losing viewers, there must be fillers other than wheels and waterfalls which would do the job; a stock of gags from stand-up comedians could be kept on stand-by. (Or why not a very long shaggy dog story, preferably told by Frankie Howerd, carrying on from one awkward gap to the next; that might actually increase the audience for the main programmes by keeping viewers in suspense waiting for the punch line.)

It was completely forseeable that London Weekend Television's new comedy series about *The Fosters*, a black family living in south London, would be attacked as being harmful to the cause of integration and racial harmony. Sure enough, on the morning after the first episode, the Daily Mail published a half page article quoting a number of spokesmen and representatives of various organisations and groups, most of them dissatisfied with the programme.

It was "insulting at times to black ambitions and authority," said a man who worked for the Community Relations Council. But instead of welcoming this as a sign that black people are being accepted into society and treated just like the rest of us—whether we are thick Irish, mean Scots, snobbish Poms, marriage-infatuated Jewish mothers, amorous Italians or whatever—he said it "worried" him.

Another man was said to be worried that "If it continues in this vein it will cover up the realities of black people's lives in Britain. We are not all laughing and joking all day and talking about sex." Either this means that he really believes that the white population are all like *Steptoe and Son* and the cast of *Are You Being Served?*—including Mollie Sugden and her incomparable pussy—or it means that he wants an apartheid system in television comedy: you can make fun of white habits and mores, but not black ones.

Equally dispiriting was Cliff Lynch, spokesman for the West Indian Standing Conference, who was reported to have said that the show "Didn't really illustrate West Indian life in Britain" which again suggests expectation of a double standard. Why should it "illustrate" rather than parody, satirise, or totally misrepresent just as other comedies about other people do?

The ironic aspect of all this is that the show does have one immense fault which none of these people pointed out: it just isn't funny. The best joke in the first episode (which was broadcast under the cheap and gratuitously suggestive sub-title "Sex and The Black Community") was:

"It wouldn't surprise me if they opened a sex cash-and-carry."

"If they do they'll have to give away blue stamps."

The best joke in the second episode (with a title almost as cheap and almost as misleading —"My Son The Lover") was:

"When you're in love money doesn't matter."

"But it's my money."

"That's why it doesn't matter."

These and a great many much weaker jokes were followed by the sound of uproarious merriment on the soundtrack; the week's most unconvincing sound effect. On the race question there are no charges for the series to answer. On the subject of comedy, however, it is clearly culpable.

★

The treat of the week was the first part of John Prebble's adaptation of *John Macnab* for BBC1. Even by the standards and habits of Buchan's own time, this story must have been pretty far-fetched. When a Cabinet Minister, a lawyer, and a banker discover in their London club that they share an overwhelming sense of ennui, they agree to poach either a deer or a salmon off each of three Scottish estates —having first warned the owners.

(Since they propose to pay £100 if they fail and £50 — in addition to returning the carcase —if they succeed, there seems no point in any of the owners opposing their attempts. Yet all three, very sportingly, do agree to guard their land against the adventuring gentlemen, thus making the whole story possible.)

Buchan wrote for an audience which, he assumed, would appreciate small jokes such as "Glen Raden's like Caesar's Gaul: divided into three parts." His world was (just) one of fixed values. If you were educated, then you had, without fear of a doubt, read *De Bello Gallico*. It must have been a comfortingly secure sort of a world. For those who had read Caesar, anyway.

By their use of sets and locations, casting, costumes and props and hence by way of a very strong general atmosphere, producer Pharic Maclaren and director Donald McWhinnie have made a programme that is powerfully redolent of that era and that bit of society. It is escapist entertainment of one of the most *delightful sorts*, and it *is unfortunate* that it will last for only three weeks.

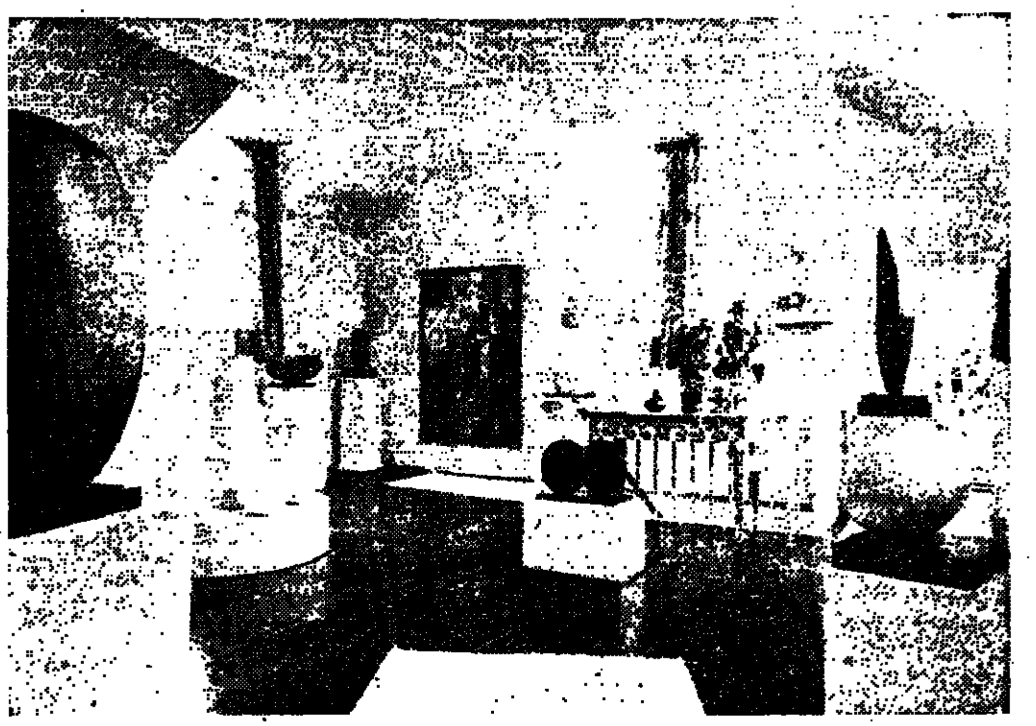
Zoe Dominic

...quist as Alan Strang in the National Theatre's revival Equus, which opened last night at the Albery Theatre

Trewyn Studio, St. Ives

The Barbara Hepworth Museum

by WILLIAM PACKER



The bedroom at Trewyn Studio

Dame Barbara Hepworth was one of the most distinguished, certainly one of the most famous British artists of our time, a true innovator and a crucial influence. Last summer she died at the age of 72, the victim of an accidental fire in her house in St. Ives, her home for nearly thirty years. The executors of her estate, in accordance with her express wish, have since worked to prepare the house, studio and garden, and all that was in them at the time of her death, as a comprehensive Museum and memorial to her and her life's work. This they offered to the Nation, asking only that the Government should bear the cost of staff and maintenance, a sum, even in these straitened times, of only £18,000 a year. The money, unfortunately is not forthcoming; but to the great credit of all those involved, the plan has been brought to completion nevertheless, and the Trewyn Studio and Garden are now open to the public.

It is an exercise that might well have gone wrong, plagued by mawkish and grisly sentiment, and special pleading on behalf of a reputation already generously large. In fact all has been disposed with admirable tact and discretion under the eye of Mr. Alan Bowness, a man ideally qualified by scholarship and long-standing family intimacy for such a task.

He puts the emphasis firmly on the work, for Dame Barbara's life was entirely devoted to her sculpture; and we are given a concise and lucid exposition, by the thirty-seven works on display, of the course she took in her career, and are able to mark her weaknesses as well as her strengths.

No one seriously expects any artist's career to follow an ever more exaggerated upward curve, nor even to hold to a steady incline. Even with the greatest, we sometimes see a rapid rise in early maturity followed by a plateau in middle age, falling away slowly into old age. Genius never invariably produces masterpieces. Here we see a young and gifted sculptor producing work of great strength, clearly benefiting from the stimulus provided by a tiny group of her peers: the figuration of Moore, and the abstractions of Arp and Gabo. The results were identifiably entirely her own. And we must not forget how small a group, and how embattled, were the elect before the War. Afterwards, a fresh generation took on the lead, and we see the artist enter the period of consolidation that confirmed her international importance. Then, by the sixties, we are in another world, and the most radical works of thirty years before seem safe, and predictable when those same ideas are rehearsed once more.

Artists must show their latest work, to be judged as such, often harshly: and we are likely to see, or at least recognise, only the public professional image at the time. Set such work into the context of a particular life, lived in a certain way in a certain place, and the whole oeuvre begins to cohere and make sense. The failure finds its true place, complementing and informing the success.

Barbara Hepworth was no painter, nor a great draughtsman. She was essentially a reductive artist, a carver and polisher, a simplifier. The best work is always the purest, most removed from the direct act of making: sometimes severe, sometimes seductively accessible, but always decisive and detached. Of course the means are known, and remain obvious, but are not indulged. It is all the fruit of a romantic response to the world seeking to identify and clarify itself. Throughout her life, she remained capable of producing individual works of great simplicity and beauty. Her modelled work tends to be less satisfactory, rather self-conscious and not a little fussy: and it is noticeable that the best bronzes are those cast from carved originals.

But we are where so much of the work was done, and have a natural curiosity about the spirit of the place. The case for showing personal memorabilia is strong, and is answered confidently. The workshops are left as they were, full of tools and materials, and work in progress, an informal and unselfconscious arrangement. And so, not only do we see the art, but also how and where, and thus the scale and nature of the activity. We are given a nice reminder, in fact, for even those of us who should know better sometimes forget, that art does not just happen but must be made, which is laborious, difficult, often dirty, and always entirely personal an occupation.

The house itself has been cleared to make two simple galleries, in which some furniture and ornament have been left to soften any possible austerity. One contains smaller work, a maquette or two, and things vulnerable to the weather. It gives directly on to the small enclosed garden, which is full of sculpture, some of it extremely large, but curiously uncrowded. Paths and trees and shrubs separate each particular space, allowing us to see the piece it contains in isolation, before making any direct visual comparison with its fellows. And the garden itself is a delight. It all works very well.

The gallery downstairs, by which we enter the Museum, contains a number of showcases, each full of souvenirs, trophies, photographs, letters, and such other ephemera as Press reviews and notices, that mark off the successive phases in her life. Again it is biography centred upon life as an artist, and the work done. No doubt large and ambitious exhibitions of the work will be mounted at intervals in the future, and our views on her achievement may change thereby. This, nevertheless, is a fine way to be remembered, as an artist working in the heart of the community that accepted her as she was. St. Ives owns several pieces by Barbara Hepworth already, placed in the Church and around the town. This major asset, however, extends in importance far beyond the town, first to Cornwall, and then to the country at large. The Barbara Hepworth Museum stands to the credit of all who have had a hand in it, to the executors, to the artist's own staff, who stayed on, first to help, and then administer; and above all to the artist herself. They deserve more practical help than simple gratitude.

Standard Life's £45,000 for Scottish 'Meistersinger'

Scottish Opera's new production of *Die Meistersinger von Nuremberg* is to receive sponsorship of £45,000 from Standard Life, the Scottish-based mutual life assurance company.

The new production will open at the Theatre Royal, Glasgow, on December 15. The opera will be conducted by Alexander Gibson and produced by David Pountney, to designs by Maria Bjornson. The cast will include Allen Cathcart as Walther, Elizabeth Harwood as Eva, Claire Livingstone as Magdalena, Gregory Dempsey as David, David Ward as Pogner, Thomas Hemsley as Beckmesser and Norman Bailey as Sachs.

...l Hall

...zon & Barenboim

by MAX LOPPERT

English Chamber oncert was one of outh Bank occasions all-purpose profes-(and, mostly, of a London ven one so fine as ves way to a nobler, ed kind of music-n the programme of symphony and two to concertos seems another all-Mozart a treasurable cele-great music that is nd lively.

language, perhaps; Curzon's playing of or concerto, K488, with exquisite sen-a closeness of spirit it times to empathy Barenboim, inspires feelings. Foolish to nalyse the mastery or extreme sophisti-Mr. Curzon's Mozart ike pages of useless, ose simply to des-effect of a single th noting only that he was on best, easiest form, with none of the nervous cloudiness that sometimes attacks his first movements; and that his variations of rhythmic shaping in the middle movement were seconded by the entire wind section with magical spontaneity.

This was the great experience of the concert, for which the strong, keenly moulded *Haffner* Symphony had served as apt introduction (but why the stinginess over repeats?). Possibly it was a mistake to follow it with music so relaxed and genial as the Two-Piano Concerto, K365; yet with Barenboim and Curzon partners as sharp and witty as they were mellow and courteous, the performance provided pleasures complementary to those earlier: the pleasures of a brilliant, civilised dialogue in which warmth, gaiety and even the occasional note of pathos is not excluded. Impossible, after the final Rondo, to imagine another performance so rich; yet the movement was encored, and even richer.

Coliseum

Swan Lake

by CLEMENT CRISP

"In time," as the song nearly has it, "Gibraltar may crumble, the Rockies may tumble, They're only made of clay . . . But, *Swan Lake* is here to stay." Irresistible, irreplaceable, the lake, the swans, the courtiers, and peasants bearing strange gifts, were all there once again in Festival's staging on Monday. It is not a production that wins many prizes for me, but it never fails to fill the theatre, and the score is a miracle of romantic fervour. The fact that Festival's presentation is not, explains my reluctance to crown it with any laurels, although Beryl Grey's version of the last act has a dynamism and a sense of tragedy that brings the evening to a fine and agonised conclusion.

Monday's Odette/Odile was Eva Evdokimova. Very well suited to the role in physique—a long, elegant silhouette, outstanding technical ease in exposition — Miss Evdokimova proved a somewhat muted Odette in Act 2. She plays the entire scene in a somehow resigned fashion, as if all hope of escaping Rothbart's spell was gone, and the choreographic variants she introduces to Ivanov's text are no improvement on that great original. But as Odile she has a verve and brilliancy that make for exciting theatre. Multitudinous pirouettes, a demonic sparkle, show us an enchantress of considerable power. I do not find it dancing of any great distinction as to "school" (that rare and aristocratic quality which marks the role's finest incumbents) but both she and her Siegfried, Peter Breuer, produce all the eye-catching virtuosity that audiences demand and admire. On these not inconsiderable terms, their joint interpretation gives the staging its much needed energy, and in the last scene they achieve an urgency of utterance that compels belief.

Elsewhere, Festival's artists work hard—the mazurka and czardas had real vivacity—and the score rings bravely out.

Libyans and Brazilians at Sadler's Wells

The next two companies to be seen at Sadler's Wells are both making their London debut.

On Monday, April 26, for one week, there will be performances of Libyan folk dance and classical music, sponsored by the Libyan Embassy in London. This short season has been mounted to coincide with the current World of Islam Festival.

Brasil Tropical, a revue-style entertainment opens a three-week season at Sadler's Wells on May 3, presented by Richard Graham. The company of 40 young dancers and singers perform a programme of songs and dances ranging from solo spots to full production numbers and culminating in the "Carnival of Brazil."

Wrekin and Telford Festival

Shropshire's 1976 Wrekin and Telford Festival (April 22-May 29) will be the largest in its history. Participants will include the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, the Fitzwilliam Quartet and many more.

No fewer than 21 firms, both local and national, who are operating in the Telford area have made contributions to the festival's expenses.

Self/Hester van Royan

Two kinds of landscape

by WILLIAM PACKER

times when London quiet, with nothing ning. Lately, with exhibition over, and le going steadily, en an hiatus.

to say there is noth-or example, at the Gallery, reached by rlham Street, is a nt work by Gerald are and conspicu-nt environmental efer to the common landscape without need to describe it. an aesthete, and occupational affic-sity. His work can e, too simple, too n the context of a tion, like the New at the Hayward nas, it can seem too a a simple one-man as more sense; and, wering all the felt then, mitigates rably.

o an empty space warehouse conver-a loudspeaker on against the wall two emitting the natural sounds picked up at a certain location at a certain time. On the wall opposite is a notice giving the particular specification of time and place, a clear and precise, and indeed eminently noticeable placard. Such devices naturally and inevitably turn our attention, not so much upon what we see, as upon what we remember from our own past experience: and we begin to speculate upon what we really do feel in such circumstances.

It is not altogether an unrewarding opportunity to take, and remains available throughout April.

★

Another artist who works upon the direct experience of the landscape, and asks us to visit our experience upon his suggestion, is Hamish Fulton. He has just held an exhibition of recent work at the I.C.A., and a portfolio of four works, published by Desmond Page in a limited edition, remains on show at Hester van Royan in Walton Street.

Fulton makes epic, particular and precise excursions into the countryside, usually at its wildest and most remote, taking occasional and exquisite photographs to record his process. He might well rest on his laurels as a fine photographer; but he intends more. Each photograph is subscribed, again preciously and with great particularity, and typographical precision, by the detailed notice of where and when; in which direction he was headed, how far he walked, and how long he took. Not only do we view a splendid Romantic image of landscape, but we begin to project ourselves into it, to take the walk ourselves. The journey begins to resolve itself into a kind of artefact, a thing to be considered for itself, a line actually drawn in space.

Fulton's work is never less than immaculately presented, and always reduced to a single, economical statement: one image standing for one journey. It lends itself to publication quite as much as to exhibition, and Miss van Royan has several earlier books and folios available, to augment this latest venture. It all adds up to a most intriguing, and, in its own special way, rather beautiful show.

Japanese shipbuilding orders up

BY PETER DUMINY

TOKYO, April 20.

JAPAN'S shipbuilding industry had more ships on order at end-March (528) than at any time in the past year. This reflects new orders for 375 ships of 5.5m. gross tons in the past six months. These figures come as a surprise after the April-September tally of 190 ships and 2.9m. tons and in view of the unrelieved depression in world shipping.

The value of new orders virtually doubled from one half-year to the next, from $2.2bn. to $4bn. The export component was 312 ships and 4.6m. tons, and was worth $3.4bn. That brought the value of the full year's export orders up to $5.1bn., 56 per cent. more than in 1974-75.

These Ministry of Transport figures relate to the 35 biggest shipyards and to vessels of more than 2,500 tons.

Shipbuilders are quick to point out another main feature of the past half-year, namely a sharp increase in tonnage lost by cancellations and as a result of renegotiation of contracts to let shipowners off orders for unwanted (in present circumstances) oil tankers.

The official figures show that the half-year started with an industry order book for 32.8m. tons and ended with that reduced by one-fifth to 25.8m. tons. Allowing for the new orders, the difference to be accounted for is 12.5m. tons, of which 7.3m. tons have disappeared as a result of deliveries.

Most of the 5.2m.-ton balance is accounted for by cancellations (2.1m. tons) and renegotiations (a net loss of 1.5m tons, with 840,000 tons of orders secured in return for 2.3m. forfeited). On this arithmetic, net orders might in fact have been barely positive in the six-month period.

Shipbuilders say there are still a lot of cancellations in the pipeline. The build-up has been impressive. Grossing up outright losses with contracts renegotiated, 912,000 tons were involved in 1974-75, followed by 2.6m. tons in first-half 1975-76 and 4.4m. tons in the past six months. The total of 7.9m. tons has been partially offset in the same two-year period by substitute orders for 1.7m. tons.

Over the full year the order book shrank by 36 per cent. or 14.2m. tons. New orders were down 9 per cent. to 8.5m. tons. There was a 24 per cent. reduction in the number of keels laid (193), a 7 per cent. drop in tonnage launched (14m. tons) and a 6 per cent. fall in tonnage completed (13.8m. tons).

From this it appears that yards were less successful at stretching out their work on hand than they had expected to be.

Turkey signs transit pacts

BY METIN MUNIR

ANKARA, April 20.

TURKEY HAS concluded agreements with nine European countries following the introduction of the new toll system for international transit traffic about four months ago, official sources told the Financial Times here to-day.

The countries are France, Yugoslavia, Britain, Finland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland and West Germany, while Hungary, Austria, Holland and Italy are expected to sign agreements by June. Most of the agreements were reached through exchanges of letters and will go into effect after April 26.

Under the new toll system, countries which have agreements with Turkey benefit from a preferential tariff system.

The new system was introduced by Turkey last December, replacing the one which has been in effect since 1967. The old system also entailed the payment of charges but Ankara had signed agreements with 25 states exempting their lorries from payment, making Turkey virtually a free-passage zone.

But with the vast upsurge in imports by countries like Iran, Iraq and the Gulf States, whose incomes increased dramatically due to their oil wealth, TIR traffic through Turkey increased sharply. In 1972 a total of 10,000 TIR lorries traversed Turkey, in 1975 80,000 and this year 110,000 are expected to use Turkish roads.

The Turkish Government was forced to introduce the new charges because the cost of maintenance, repair and expansion of highways used by the gigantic TIR lorries.

Turkish officials estimate that Turkish lira 1.8bn. (£60m.) will be earned from TIR dues this year. This, they claim, is only a little in excess of the funds allocated to the directorate of highways for TIR roads.

The Turks consider themselves to have been perfectly justified. But importing countries, particularly Iran which depends heavily on Turkish roads and harbours, and European countries like Germany and Holland, whose trucking companies do a lot of business with the near East, expressed their displeasure.

Iran put pressure on Turkey by hinting that it would withhold most of the $1.2bn. it pledged to give Turkey in credits for communications improvement projects.

The TIR problem is expected to be debated at the two-day summit between Turkish President Koruturk, the Shah of Iran and Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto of Pakistan opening here to-morrow. Turkish officials expect the Shah to press for free passage for both Iranian and other trucks. They, in turn, say that they are not in favour of reducing the charges, let alone lifting them.

However, having reached a political level their objections may now be overruled.

French win Libyan contract

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

PARIS, April 20.

FRANCE'S FLAGGING trade drive with the rich oil producing states received a big fillip to-day with the announcement by the engineering company Fives-Cail Babcock of a Frs.700m. (£80m.) turn-key contract to supply Libya with a 1m. tonnes cement works.

The deal, concluded with the National Cement Company of Libya, provides for a largely computerised dry process unit with a capacity of some 3,000 tonnes daily. To be built near El Homs, 65 miles to the east of Tripoli, the plant is expected to go on stream during 1979.

One of the features of the project is its centralised control system, equipped with a computer and x-ray analyser to monitor the input of raw materials for production.

The Libyan contract makes a welcome change for France after a string of disappointments in the Middle East, amid the growing suspicion that the country's good political relations with the Arab world were no substitute, in business terms, for competitive prices. France has already seen a major steel production contract in Iraq slip through its fingers, simply because of overpricing.

The deal also comes just a week after two other substantial export contracts, won this time by the engineering group Technip.

The largest is for a share of the giant sugar complex being built in Sudan, under the direction of the Lonrho group and largely financed by Arab oil states.

Technip will install a cane sugar factory and refinery which with a capacity of 330,000 tons annually will, it is claimed, be the biggest of its kind in the world. The French company will handle the engineering side, while process and basic design work will be carried out by Arkel of the U.S.

Overall value has not been disclosed but the financing arranged through a group of French and Japanese banks totals Frs.578m. (£66m.).

In addition Technip has won —through its Italian offshoot, Technipetrol—a contract to deliver a 100,000 tons a year paraffin plant to Venezuela, whose output will go towards the production of animal feedstuffs. The unit, to go on stream in 1979, will form part of the Puerto la Cruz oil complex, some 200 miles east of Caracas.

UAE to allow off-shore banking

By Our Own Correspondent

THE UNITED Arab Emirates (UAE) Currency Board has decided to allow a limited number of off-shore banks to operate in the country. The long-awaited decision follows Bahrain's entry last year into the off-shore banking scene with the licensing of 32 OBUs. Some circles believe that the UAE might have decided against allowing this kind of banking in the interests of Gulf unity, and thus the Currency Board's decision to limit the number indicates that the Emirates clearly wish to do nothing at the present which would jeopardise Bahrain's OBU success. However, only five of the banks licensed in Bahrain have actually started operating and many were waiting to see which way the UAE would decide.

"We are not going really wild like Bahrain," said Mr. Ronald Scott, managing director of the UAE Currency Board. "We are thinking along the lines of allowing about 12 OBU's to begin operation, and I have already contacted those banks we would like to see operating here, which have previously expressed interest." He mentioned the Banquo Commerce Italiano, American Express, the Bank of Tokyo and the Bank of Nova Scotia. Mr. Scott said that the Board wanted to have banks of all nationalities rather than a predominance of British and American banks.

Many believe that Dubai will be the immediate beneficiary of the Board's ruling with its preponderance of banks and financial institutions, though Sharjah, too is striving also to become a financial centre, and is building a specially designed financial district in the heart of Sharjah town. However, some banking circles feel that the OBU newcomers may eventually opt for Abu Dhabi, which has more money resources.

● Costain civil engineering are to build two prestige office blocks in the UAE for the Government. The contracts are for the offices of the United Arab Emirates Currency Board's headquarters in Dubai and Abu Dhabi and the cost of the project is estimated at £19m.

French import car sales up

PARIS, April 20.

FOREIGN CAR sales increased their share of the French market to 21.9 per cent. in February from 19.3 per cent. in January and 14.8 per cent. in February 1975, the Car Importers Association said.

In the first two months of 1976, foreign car registrations rose to 281,500 compared with 225,800 a year ago, or 20.4 per cent. of the market from 17.3 per cent. for the same period of 1975. The Association said results so far for March confirm a continuation of this trend.

Ford, Fiat, Volkswagen were the three largest private and commercial car importers in February.

Reuter

Aluminium plant for Egypt

CAIRO, April 20.

EGYPT AND a number of U.S. and Arab investors have signed an agreement worth more than $10m. to build an aluminium works in Egypt.

This is the second significant foreign investment deal under the two-year-old economic open-door policy. The first was concluded earlier this month when the French Michelin Tyre company agreed to establish a $50m. factory in Egypt.

The aluminium plant, however, will be the first to start construction, as it has already been approved by presidential decree.

AP-DJ

Pemex picks ICI polyethylene process

The ICI low density polyethylene process has been selected by Pemex in the implementation of its La Cangrejera petrochemical complex in southern Mexico. Of the 500,000 tons a year of ethylene which will be produced by ethane cracking, half will be used for the manufacture of 240,000 tons per year low density polyethylene in three identical streams in what is believed to be the largest single low density polyethylene expansion project to be undertaken anywhere so far, and which will require the investment of some $75m.

Indo-Soviet pact

A NEW long term trade agreement between India and Russia has been signed here covering the period 1976-80 which will raise the trade turnover to Rs10bn. (£530m.) by the end of the decade at current prices, our New Delhi correspondent reports.

This raises the level of trade by around 70 per cent. and takes into account items of export meant for joint projects in third countries but which have not yet been quantified. With these it is hoped to double the trade turnover by the end of the decade.

Canton Trade Fair

For the first time in years a trade representative from the Soviet Union has been allowed to attend the Canton Trade Fair. But diplomats there are unable to explain the move. The representative, Mr. Kulakov, a Trade Minister at the Soviet embassy in Peking, attended the fair's opening banquet last week.

U.S. may seek to continue Minuteman III production

LOS ANGELES, April 20.

DEFENCE Secretary Donald Rumsfeld indicated to-day that the Administration may ask Congress to allow continued production of nuclear-tipped Minuteman III missiles because the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks arms control meetings have not shown much progress.

"If you want to send a message to the Russians, keeping the Minuteman line open is the most reasoned and measured one," said a Senate source in Washington. The U.S. has about 550 Minuteman IIIs, each with three deadly MIRV warheads that can be aimed at separate targets. The missiles first went into U.S. silos in 1970. There are roughly 50 in reserve.

When the Administration was preparing its $112bn. budget for 1977, it had decided to stop Minuteman production. The contractors who build component parts, like the guidance system, began closing their production lines.

"About now, the suppliers for the Minuteman III line would begin to peel off," Mr. Rumsfeld told reporters who are accompanying him on a visit to the West Coast where he flew the new B1 bomber and argued against cuts in his budget.

The Senate source said that officials had been discussing buying 200 more missiles. Administration officials questioned that President Ford has not yet made a final decision.

"It's April and we do not have a SALT II agreement that would put in place the limits of the Vladivostok accords," said Mr. Rumsfeld. "We have been reviewing what we know now that we didn't know last year when the budget was being drawn up."

One of the arguments Mr. Rumsfeld has been using against defence cuts is that America's military expenditures have been reduced while the Soviet Union's have been increasing, and he has raised the possibility that without more money the U.S. might lose its strategic position.

In March, Mr. Rumsfeld told Congress: "Continuation of current Soviet strategic programmes —even within the constraints of SALT—could put in question the survivability of the U.S. Minuteman force within a decade."

A number of published reports have indicated that the prospects for a SALT agreement this year are dwindling. Asked for his view, Mr. Rumsfeld said: "I wouldn't want to predict at what pace SALT will proceed."

The request has a pretty good chance of success. Congress has so far been reluctant to do much cutting at all on the Pentagon budget and the decision to stop Minuteman production provoked a series of complaints from Congress.

UPI

U.S. 'honouring Cuba agreement'

WASHINGTON, April 20.

THE WHITE House said to-day that the U.S. is honouring its anti-hijacking agreement with Cuba and investigating a recent attack on a Cuban fishing boat.

Presidential Press Secretary Ron Nessen, replying to Cuban Premier Fidel Castro's threat yesterday to scrap the agreement, promised action against anyone who had violated American laws.

Premier Castro, in a speech on the 15th anniversary of the abortive American-backed attack on the Bay of Pigs, threatened to call off the 1973 anti-hijacking agreement if the recent attack in the Florida Straits were repeated, or if the anti-Castro Cubans responsible were not punished.

Cuban exiles in Miami had claimed responsibility for the machine-gun attack in international waters this month in which a Cuban fisherman was killed.

Mr. Nessen said that the U.S. informed Cuba on April 16 that it was investigating the incident and that appropriate action would be taken if it was found that anyone subject to U.S. jurisdiction had violated American laws. He said that the investigation was still going on.

The 1973 agreement, which checked a long series of hijackings of American planes to Cuba, was reached when the United States agreed to clamp down on Cuban exile groups in Florida who had been harassing the Cuban fishing fleet. No attack against Cuban fishing boats had been reported for nearly three years following the agreement.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry has meanwhile sent a note of protest to Washington, blaming the attack on the "atmosphere" created by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger's recent warnings to Cuba against another Angola-type intervention in Africa.

Dr. Kissinger has hinted at possible reprisals against Cuba and Dr. Castro replied last night that Cuba would not be frightened by bellicose threats. Dr. Castro yesterday also called President Ford a "vulgar liar" for his public comments on Cuban intervention in Angola. Mr. Nessen said that he was not going to comment on the Cuban Prime Minister's personal criticism of President Ford.

Mr. Nessen said that Dr. Castro would have no reason to dump the anti-hijacking pact because the Justice Department has been investigating the fishing boat incident. The Cubans were informed through the Swiss Embassy in Havana, Mr. Nessen said. The U.S. and Cuba have no direct diplomatic relations.

Agencies.

Strike threat facing tyre industry

By Stewart Fleming

NEW YORK, April 20.

THE THREAT of a strike by 60,000 employees at the major U.S. tyre manufacturing companies hangs over the industry to-day as the workers' three-year contract runs out at midnight.

Both the companies involved, Firestone, Goodyear, Uniroyal and Goodrich and also the United Rubber Workers Union have imposed a news blackout as the negotiations reach a critical stage.

It is believed that the union side is pressing for at least a 40 per cent. wage rise as well as a cost of living allowance designed to automatically compensate members for inflationary price rises.

The negotiations are centred on Cleveland, Ohio, where a 15-member advisory committee comprising union and company representatives is attempting to reach agreement.

The unions have decided to concentrate their negotiations on Firestone Tire and Rubber Company with the objective of setting an agreement which will apply throughout the industry.

A lengthy stoppage would undoubtedly damage the output of the motor industry which is currently one of the major industries contributing to the country's recovery from recession.

It is thought, however, that the motor manufacturers have stocks which would last three or four weeks at least.

Ford backs Syrian moves

BY JUREK MARTIN, U.S. EDITOR

WASHINGTON, April 20.

PRESIDENT Ford has now given his official imprimatur to the role that Syria has been playing of late in the Lebanese crisis.

In an interview with a regional chain of newspapers, he said that Syria and Israel had displayed "great restraint" over Lebanon and that the chances for peace in the Middle East were much improved as a result.

The President's comments echoed those of his Press Secretary yesterday, which in turn echoed those of the Secretary of State, Dr. Kissinger last week. Mr. Ron Nessen said: "If you look at the nature and the intent of what Syria is doing in the Lebanon, overall they've played a constructive role."

Dr. Kissinger had warned last Wednesday that Syrian intervention in the Lebanon was getting close to the borderline of Israeli tolerance, but he also said that to date the Syrian role had been constructive.

What this means is that the United States now accepts that its previous implacable opposition to any outside military intervention in Lebanon has had to be modified. The political settlement that the U.S. still advocates in Lebanon, it feels, may require limited Syrian military presence to hold in check the more extreme demands of the left wing Palestinians.

At the same time, the U.S. has been impressing what it considers to be a more realistic appreciation on the Israelis. Last week, Mr. Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister, said that Israel had drawn up an unspecified "red line" in Lebanon that Syria could not cross without risking Israeli retaliation, but his remarks implied that Syria had not yet reached this boundary.

Warning on Canadian pay policy

BY VICTOR MACKIE

OTTAWA, April 20.

THE CANADIAN Government's anti-inflation guidelines programme despite the best efforts of the Anti-Inflation Board, is bound to introduce some serious distortions into wage and fringe benefit structures, Labour Minister John Munro has warned.

"When controls are lifted, there could be a mad rush to catch up, that would undo much of the good result we hope will emanate from the anti-inflation programme," he said in a speech. He appealed to the Labour movement to exercise its responsibility to make a contribution to the public debate on the formulation of any post-control measures that may be necessary.

Canada established the "unenviable record" in 1974 and again in 1975 of experiencing among the highest man-hour losses due to industrial disputes in Western countries, Mr. Munro said. Labour-management relations, with a very few exceptions, are the principal negative factor preventing Canada from realising her potential for both growth and stability, said the Minister.

Colombian polls show record abstentions

By Our Own Correspondent

BOGOTA, April 20.

FIRST ESTIMATES indicate that only about a quarter of Colombia's electorate went to the polls in the Easter Sunday local government elections and the abstention rate may prove to be a record even for traditionally apathetic Colombian voters. However, the Government claims to be well satisfied with the results, both for the exemplary way in which voting was carried out, and for the convincing defeat of opposition parties by the ruling Liberals and Conservatives.

Although the establishment parties are likely to finish with over 85 per cent. of votes cast between them, this means in effect that they have the support of under 25 per cent. of the potential electorate. In many democracies such a small percentage might not be considered a victory, particularly if it came in response to the Government's pleas for a vote of confidence.

Unexpectedly, the Conservative Party has done well in the elections, coming out only a few points behind the Liberals. Not so the Left-wing groups who, in spite of vigorous campaigning and hopes of benefiting from the protest vote, made a surprisingly poor showing. The National Opposition Union made gains in Bogota, but the National Popular Alliance, which once matched the strength of the traditional parties when it was under General Rojas Pinilla's leadership, has virtually disappeared as an electoral force.

With only three quarters of the votes counted, the two main Liberal factions were both claiming victory within the Liberal Party — and the right to the Presidential candidacy for 1978.

An Easter holiday combined with torrential rain was hardly conducive to a big turn out, and, apart from the singing and chanting of party supporters, election day was quiet. Only three small bombs in Bogota testified to the military's fears that extremist groups wanted to sabotage Colombia's democratic processes. The blow struck the next day when an urban guerilla group called M-19 carried out its threat to execute the President of the country's biggest trades' union federation, Senor Jose Raquel Mercado, for being "a traitor to the Colombian working class." Sr. Mercado was kidnapped two months ago by M-19 and the Government refused to negotiate for his release, saying that the conditions, which included the reinstatement of workers and public employees sacked under state of siege legislation, were unacceptable.

Though Colombia's electorate has left no doubt that it is disenchanted, the Government can clearly rest assured that there is no serious challenge from an incipient and divided left. The century-old Liberal and Conservative parties still dominate Colombian politics.

Venezuela payments

Venezuela's balance of payments for February showed a deficit of over £250m., according to a report just issued by the Venezuelan Central Bank, writes our Caracas correspondent. The bank indicated that most of this deficit was due to a change in the manner by which the nationalised petroleum industry here paid taxes to the central government. As a result of this change, oil income for the Venezuelan Treasury fell from £161m. in January to £9m. in February.

PARAGUAY'S HYDROELECTRIC PLANS

Power for export

BY HUGH O'SHAUGHNESSY, LATIN AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

BY ONE of those quirks of fortune so common in Latin America Paraguay, with 2.6m. people one of the smallest and poorest of the countries of the Western Hemisphere, is a full partner with the South American giant Brazil, in one of the world's largest civil engineering projects.

The Itaipu scheme seeks to harness the power of the Paraná river as it falls in a series of seven rapids on the border of Paraguay and Brazil. It will be rated at 12,600 MW of electricity, and the cost is now estimated at $8.5bn. By the time it is fully operative, 1984, it is likely to have cost very much more than the present estimate, which even now is more than two and a half times the sum first mooted.

The two countries will have joint and equal responsibility for the scheme. With such a tiny population and a minute economy Paraguay will not absorb anything but a fraction of the output of Itaipu and will sell the bulk of its half of the energy to Brazil. The same will happen with another major hydroelectric scheme which Paraguay is proposing with Argentina, the Yacyretá-Apipé project lower down the Paraná which is at present expected to cost $3.5bn. and to produce 4,050 MW.

Thus by the mid-1985 Paraguay should have ceased to be a major exporter of corned beef and lumber and become the only country in the world with electric power as its principal export item.

A man closely involved in the development of the two schemes has just been in London as the guest of the British Government. Dr. Delfin Ugarte Centurión is minister of Industry and Commerce of Paraguay and this month had meetings with, among others, Mr. Eric Deakins, junior minister at the Department of Trade, to directors of Lazards and Brook Bond Liebig, which have loans and investments in Paraguay.

The British interest is in securing as big a share of the contracts for the hydroelectric scheme as possible and a share of other business opportunities. For his part, Dr. Ugarte was seeking investments which would enable Paraguay to absorb and put to direct use the share of electric power it is entitled to and to attract further foreign investment to landlocked Paraguay.

Dr. Ugarte is one of the foremost international representatives of the Paraguayan Government of General Alfredo Stroessner, having for eight years served as Paraguayan delegate at the Montevideo headquarters of the Latin American Free Trade Association. He mirrors with great faithfulness in his own career and attitudes the fiercely anti-Communist, unabashedly right-wing flavour of a Government which is committed to adventurous private enterprise and does not hesitate to co-operate with foreign business, provided the terms are right.

Orphaned at an early age by the political violence of the time, Dr. Ugarte got his first job as a 13-year-old typist at a Government department. Two years later he rose to be messenger at the Asunción branch of the Banco do Brasil. When he left some years later he was general manager.

From the bank he moved into business on his own account, setting up a printing company and later organising an insurance

Dr. Delfin Ugarte

office, La Consolidada. After moving into Government, not a difficult task in a small country where Government and business are closely identified, he retained his outside interests. As a Government figure he has added a directorship of the Banco Nacional de Fomento, the national development bank.

At dinner with a number of British businessmen and politicians in London earlier this month Dr. Ugarte sketched out the political and business atmosphere of Paraguay. "In other countries there are various centres of power, the Government, the armed forces, the trade unions, the political parties, etc. In Paraguay there is one centre of power and that is the Government of President Stroessner. All of us are united around General Stroessner." He was equally trenchant about his role as a businessman in Government. "My links with business mean that businessmen can come to my ministry and find a friend there. I understand their problems."

The antipathy of the Stroessner Government to anything it considers communistically inclined has its effect on business. Despite the acknowledged expertise of the Soviets in the construction of large turbines their path will be a difficult one in Paraguay. The Paraguayan Government is intensely suspicious of any attempt by the Russians to infiltrate agents into Paraguay in the guise of hydroelectric experts, as, it believes, they have done in other hydroelectric schemes in Latin America. Asunción also suspects that the Russians will sell their turbines at a reasonable price and then hold Brazil and Paraguay up to ransom for the spares. There is to be no direct dealing between the Soviet Union and Paraguay on Itaipú, is the word from Asunción.

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هكذا من الأصل

OVERSEAS NEWS

ɔts in
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:usalem

:RUSALEM, April 20.

ɬ TOURISTS were
rom parts of the Old
·e to-day as Israeli
forces battled with
·ab students. Reinforced
·so broke up demonstra-
the towns of Nablus,
·d Tulkarem, as civil
ntinued throughout the
West Bank of the

:wo weeks of quiet in
·ı, about 200 Arab school-
:hed from the Damascus
he Old Walled City to
Ierod's Gate carrying
vith the slogan "condo-
the occupation."

broke up the march but
ıungsters then started
stones at a police patrol.
ıe city walls, another
: fire to car tyres. Two
ı and a soldier in a
car were injured by
ıd some 15 Arab youths

ɔlus, 25 miles to the
roops quelled further
at rioting following the
a 55-year-old Arab, shot
clash in the bazaar
. Rock-throwing in-
vere also reported in

w wave of rioting this
lowed two months of
Bank demonstrations
this year. A two-day
ırough the West Bank
·ek-end by tens of
s of extreme nationalist
was also blamed for
the situation. The
tion newspaper Davar
march by would-be
ettlers had stirred up
ı towns such as Jericho
d been quiet in the past.

st the marchers was Mr.
Hammer, Minister of
who represents the
Religous Party in Coali-
ernment. His presence
's the conflicting pres-
·at are keeping Israel
rmulating a clear-cut
ı what to do with the
:nk after almost nine
occupation, political
aid.

: Prime Minister,
Rabin, to-day indicated
Government was still
to negotiate a com-
over return of the
West Bank to Jordan
n conditions.

:wspaper interview, Mr.
iid the ruling coalition
nplete freedom of action
out peace negotiations
·dan including a terri-
npromise."

Tokyo commuters without commuter train yesterday.

Work force is badly hit by rail strike

TOKYO, April 20.

MILLIONS of Japanese workers walked to hotels or prepared to spend the night in their offices to-day at the end of the first day of a three-day rail strike.

Bus and municipal underground workers also staged a stoppage lasting a few hours until 8 a.m. to-day.

The national rail strike was called to demand higher wages by the two powerful unions of the National Railway Corporation (JNR). They were joined by workers on 11 of Japan's 15 major private railway companies.

Talks between the private companies and the workers were taking place but little progress was reported. JNR employees were awaiting the outcome of the talks before starting further negotiations with national railway officials.

About 40m. people, one-third of Japan's population, were estimated to be affected by the strike, which crippled all main rail services.

Labour Minister Mutsuo Kimura told the Cabinet that 360,000 tonnes of freight were undelivered because of the strike. Reuter

● Capital spending projected by major Japanese firms for fiscal 1976, which began on April 1, totals 7.08 trillion Yen on a construction basis, up 11.9 per cent. from the estimate for fiscal 1975, a report compiled by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) shows, according to AP-DJ in Tokyo.

The projected capital spending represents a 5.5 per cent. gain in real terms from the estimated fiscal 1975 spending total, said the report.

Meanwhile, projected spending for pollution control facilities accounted for 978.8bn. Yen, down 5.7 per cent. from the estimate for fiscal 1975, the report said.

The overall MITI forecast of an 11.9 per cent. nominal rise in capital spending this fiscal year compares with a forecast of 14.3 per cent. nominal growth rate by Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan.

● Japan's overall balance of payment surplus rose to $660m. in March from $619m. in February and $298m. in March last year, Finance Ministry figures show.

The March surplus reduced the payments deficit for the whole of fiscal 1975 ended in March to $1,766m., only slightly over half the fiscal 1974 deficit of $3,392m., the Ministry said. Reuter

Casualties in New Delhi riot

Witnesses to New Delhi's first major outbreak of violence since a nationwide state of emergency was declared last June said yesterday that the three-hour riots began when officials bulldozing the houses of squatters offered to relocate them only if they would be sterilised, reports UPI from New Delhi.

Sources said at least 10 persons were killed in the riots, in which police opened fire with automatic weapons and shot tear gas into crowds that numbered up to 5,000 persons.

There were *no* official death tolls, but sources said well over 100 persons were taken to hospital for treatment of injuries received during the fighting.

One witness said he saw corpses of policemen being loaded onto trucks when the fighting finished and police imposed a 24-hour curfew. One estimate put the number of dead policemen at 20-30.

The censored Press did not report the incidents at all. It merely printed a statement issued late on Monday night by the Lieutenant-Governor of New Delhi, warning that drastic action will be taken against persons intereferring with family planning workers.

Lebanon gunfire

Efforts to shore up Lebanon's precarious ceasefire faltered yesterday amid fresh outbreaks of gunfire along the lines separating Moslem and Christian sectors of Beirut, reports Reuter. The Palestine news agency WAFA said that the higher military committee, the ceasefire supervisory body which groups members of left- and right-wing factions, had agreed on a fresh bid to stop the fighting.

Death penalty

Lebanese left-wingers and Palestinian commando movements decided to execute publicly any member who commits murder and certain other crimes, the Palestine news agency WAFA announced early yesterday, according to Reuter in Beirut. A joint statement by leaders of the two movements also announced adherence to a ceasefire decision taken by the higher military committee effective at 2400 GMT yesterday.

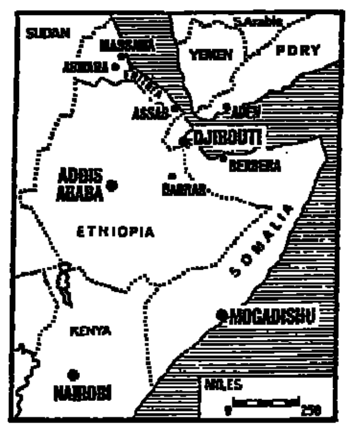
Peking visit

Egyptian Vice-President Hosni Mubarak yesterday inspected Chinese military aricraft on a visit to an air force unit of the Chinese People's Liberation Army in Peking, the New China News Agency reported, says Reuter. Mr. Mubarak has met new Premier Hua Kuo-Feng and observers believe they discussed China's arms supplies to Egypt.

FERMENT IN ETHIOPIA

The official is slipping

BY A CORRESPONDENT IN ADDIS ABABA



IT WAS a classic High Noon confrontation. Coming down Churchill Avenue, the main artery of the Ethiopian capital, a crowd of about 100 demonstrating students, shouting "Down with the military Government!" and "Give us civilian rule!" Coming up Churchill Avenue, a solitary policeman carrying a gun. At a distance of 20 paces, the policeman raised his arm and called on the students to stop. The students kept coming. The policeman lifted his machine pistol and fired one shot into the clouds. The students ran, scattering in all directions through the traffic.

An astonished Western ambassador who watched the incident from a balcony said: "You would not be able to see that anywhere else in the world. It was, in a way, tremendously impressive—just one policeman putting all those kids to flight with one shot. It just goes to show what a grip the authorities have on the situation here."

But in another and very important sense, the incident points up, sharply, just how much the authority's grip on the situation is slipping. A year ago no students would have been on the streets, and especially none calling for the dismantling of the revolutionary Provisional Military Administrative Council. "But," said a young ex-student, "the wheel has come full circle. Two years ago, we were out every day calling for the overthrow of Haile Selassie. Now, we want to get rid of these military brutes. They are nothing but a bunch of fascists."

Demonstraitons, planned and spontaneous, large and small, are again becoming a feature of daily life in Addis Ababa. Outside City Hall, weavers complain noisily about the lack of suitable yarn to make traditional cloths. They say, with vehemence, that there's been no yarn for months and that they are hungry. In the Piazza, home of countless gold and silver-smiths—and just as many bag-snatchers and pickpockets — a congregation of youngsters shout about the university being closed, the lack of any sort of employment, and the ever-higher price of food. Others shuffle up to the group, join in the shouting, and melt away. Across the road, in an alleyway, a policeman watches and emerges quietly as the crowd begins to disperse.

It has been said that no revolution, and no revolutionary government, has ever been greeted with so much genuine goodwill as Ethiopia's. In the past 18 months, however, much of it has evaporated or been squandered in one enormous bureaucratic muddle after another. Urban land reform has succeeded in creating homelessness and chaos. Crass violence has occurred, such as the airport incident last September in which seven Ethiopian Air Line workers, all trade unionists, were shot dead.

Temperature

Anger and disillusionment are coming into the open — an unusual state of affairs in a country whose history is richly embroidered with clandestine treachery and secret plotting. Recently, for instance, the "broad masses" were invited to Revolution Square to hear the head of state, Brigadier-General Teferi Bante give the "Victory Day" anniversary address. As General Teferi was running through the now-familiar list of revolutionary achievements, the Radio Ethiopia microphone recording his words picked up, *loud and clear*, the also familiar chants of "Down with the Derg" (the military council) and "Down with Mengistu" (the PMAC's first vice-chairman generally regarded as being the toughest member of all). The fact was that, simultaneously with the Victory Day celebration, a very large anti-government demonstration was taking place. It had begun in the Mercato, the central Addis market.

It is sometimes said that Addis is the wrong thermometer to take the temperature of Ethiopian affairs: that the plight of the urban unemployed — a large and growing army — the homeless beggars, the lepers and the waifs and strays, is not typical of the country as a whole. In the country, it is said, you will not find the disaffected students and out-of-work radicals who are so much part of the urban scene. To a very limited extent, that is true. It is possible to go to remote regions and find in them happy people. Some of these areas are cut off for three and four months at a time during the long rains when such tracks as exist are impassable. There the revolution has had little, if any, impact. In one remote township, recently visited, there are five enterprises still in private — and foreign — hands, all of which should have been nationalised a year ago and more. They have escaped because the regional governor, an Amhara from Addis, does not speak the local language and is quite content with his easy-going lot.

Elsewhere in the countryside, the story is very different. Rural land reform, a bold, imaginative and in theory sensible measure, has not worked in several areas. The proof is to be seen in the markets where the staple grain, *teff*, is either missing altogether or is rationed by price. In Addis, *teff*, when it can be found, is 115 per cent. more expensive now than six months ago. Peppers — a vital ingredient in much Ethiopian cooking — have risen in price even more sharply. Onions, also of much importance, especially in the meatless fasting months, are also climbing in price steeply. What has happened to the *teff* is the subject of many — and wild — rumours. The truth is simple — it is being hoarded. The crop this year is not the bumper one predicted earlier, but it is adequate. The farmers, however, are hanging on to their produce, angered by what they see as arbitrary interference from the Government in their traditional ways, and often infuriated by visitations from the *zémecha*, students mobilised by the government in a National Development Through Co-operation and Work Campaign. In traditional Ethiopian society, hoarding is resorted to in two conditions: war or drought. The rains this year, except in the drought-blighted Ogaden region, have been good.

Hostile peasants

One *zemech*, an attractive girl who has served the campaign in both the south and the west of the country, says the peasants have become so hostile to the Government and all its works that campaigners refuse point-blank to go. She said that of 60,000 *Zemacha* theoretically campaigning, half had elected to remain in the capital or had decided to go home despite threats from the Government about the fate of deserters. "But they cannot arrest 30,000 of us—that is our hope," she said.

There have, however, been a great many arrests recently, probably close to 4,000. Many of those carted off were women, the wives of former officials or landlords who had already been arrested. The move followed the discovery by the Government of an alleged "reactionary plot" and the certain discovery of arms caches both in the capital and within a radius of about 30 miles. But the precise internal security situation is a mystery: trouble appears to flare up, briefly, in one area and, as security forces are despatched to deal with it, more trouble erupts 50 miles away. There have, however, been some significant recent pointers. The Government-owned Ethiopian Herald newspaper has, for the first time, talked of "strong" internal opposition to the revolution, and also of the deaths of *Zemecha*, officials, civil servants and "men in uniform" in connection with "revolutionary activities."

There has been much speculation in diplomatic and other circles about why the rigorously-controlled Press should suddenly have launched recently into what has the appearance *of a* genuinely free debate about how to handle the problem of the war against secessionist forces in Eritrea. There are two schools one says that, as the Government's contact with the people often takes place at the end of the barrel of a gun, the Derg is seeking, by means of the Press, to take the political temperature by canvassing opinion. The other school insists that there is an altogether darker motive and that the Derg will suddenly close the debate by saying: "You have seen the preposterous notions being discussed, you can see that they would never work, and we shall, therefore, remain in power for as long as is necessary."

Bedevilled

Either way, there seems to be no real consensus and the military will continue in power. But unless solutions are found to the many urgent internal problems—and Ethiopia is bedevilled by some equally urgent external difficulties, like the rows with Somalia over Djibouti and Sudan over other matters, including Eritrea—the military may have to resort to the brutal, repressive tactics similar to those which kept the late Emperor on his throne.

EUROPEAN NEWS

Arias under pressure t spell out political plan

BY ROGER MATTHEWS

MADRI

A PERIOD of intense political manoeuvring has begun within the Spanish régime, the culmination of which should be seen when the Prime Minister, Sr. Carlos Arias, makes a major policy speech to the nation at the end of this month.

Snr. Arias is under strong pressure from reformist elements in the Government to spell out a precise programme that would include the announcement of a referendum before the summer and general elections before the end of the year.

Aware of this pressure, the more entrenched members of the Establishment are seeking to erect further obstacles to the Government's cautious plans for political reform. Nearly 300 amendments had been tabled in the Cortes (Parliament) before to-day's deadline to the draft political associations law, which theoretically lays the basis for the introduction of parties. Four of these amendments propose that the entire draft law should be returned to the Government for reconsideration.

Members of General Franco's National Movement, especially those who are Cortes members, are becoming more hostile in their pronouncements and to-day accused the Government of lacking coherence in its proposals. They complained that the Cabinet was obstructing serious consideration of its plans by sending proposals to the Cortes piece by piece so that no overall scheme could be detected.

King Juan Carlos yesterday called in the President of the Cortes, Snr. Fernandez Miranda, for talks, and it is understood that the two men discussed both the attitude of the Cortes and the question that might be asked in a referendum. The Cabinet has already discussed the two probable themes popular approval for a lowering of the age at which the heir to the throne might succeed, an ment of a two-ti the lower chamb universal suffrag

At least two n Government have in private that will be the que the referendum fore the end of not clear wheth agrees with eith or the proposed is, however, und sure from all political spectru more forthright speech than he A failure in thi be certain to re about his resign ment.

Certainly the r lost ground to several key Op having been jai month, seven wo year in clashes

ROMANIAN ECONOMIC POLICY

The consumer is l

BY DAVID LASCELLES, EAST EUROPE CORRESPONDENT

ROMANIA'S Five Year Plan is by far the most spectacular to be adopted by any Comecon state. Most annual growth targets are in double figures; and some of the industrial projects would look grand in countries with twice Romania's population of 21m.

The reasons are Romania's continuing quest for economic strength, which it sees as the basis for political independence; its backwardness even by Comecon standards; and a strong dash of nationalism. Of all the main targets set out by President Nicolae Ceausescu in a three-hour speech charting Romania's economic course to 1980, those for wage inreases are the lowest, suggesting that investment still has unquestioned priority over consumption.

Ceaucescu: ambitious targets.

With industry intended to grow by over 10 per cent. a year, Romania will over the next five years build no less than 2,700 new factories, including five major engineering plants which will require close on 100 foreign licences. One of the plants will be the largest of its kind in Europe outside the Soviet Union.

Another project is for a 10m. ton a year steel mill at Calarasi on the Danube which will double steel output and place Romania among the world's leading producers of steel per capita. A new petrochemical complex on the Black Sea coast will process nearly 9m. tons of oil a year into a wide range of products. Most of the crude will be imported, illustrating Romania's retreat from self-sufficiency in oil.

New projects are to account for 80 per cent. of industrial growth, pointing to a higher rate of capital building than elsewhere in Comecon where growth is to be achieved through modernising or extending existing plant. Priority areas are to be electronics, machine-building and chemicals. But the overall strategy is to improve the technological level of industry increase output per worker, and raise quality.

Industry is to be encouraged to turn more towards export markets to earn the necessary resources to pay for the heavy investment programme. Exports are planned to rise by 85 per cent. over the five years and imports by 70 per cent. Investments will rise by over 10 per cent. a year to reach an annual rate of some 40bn. lei (£16bn.). These growth figures are by far the highest in Comecon. But ambitious as they may seem, they are a continuation of Romania's high rate of growth over the past 10 years.

Romania now boasts some of the most up-to-date engineering plants in the world, having been prepared to pay for the best. The country is the third largest producer of oil equipment in the world (and the second largest exporter after the U.S.), and can turn out heavy locomotives, aircraft and power generating equipment. Progress has also been made towards establishing an armaments industry. Field guns, armoured personnel carriers, and fighter aircraft are in production, and there have recently been reports of work on a tank.

Agriculture has made slower progress, but has not been neglected because of its contribution to exports. This has brought with it greatly improved conditions for the rural population who were known in the past to besiege Bucharest in starving hordes.

The growth target for agriculture of 5-8 per cent. a year over the next five years has been left deliberately vague to allow for the hazards of the climate. An important aim is to increase fodder supplies to sustain the growing livestock, herds and ensure meat supplies. But with food shortages provoking rowdy scenes at some markets this winter, a general improvement in both quantity and quality is being sought. The investment programme for agriculture includes large sums for flood prevention along the Danube where disasters have occurred twice in the last five years. Some 1.5m. hectares are to be protected by 1980. A strict forestry conservation law has just been passed to restore timber as the major Romanian resource it once was. Reafforestation is to be carried out on 300,000 hectares by 1980, but the complete programme extends well into the next century.

The plan holds out mixed prospects for the average Romanian. Wages will rise at half the rate of economic growth. On the other hand, housing construction is to rise rapidly and retail sales are to go up by 47 per cent. in line with the growth of food output and light industry. Overcrowding in the big towns should be eased, and the working week will be cut by two hours to 42 hours.

But it would be uncharacteristic of President Ceausescu and his Government to funnel more into consumptio possibilities economic indep been exhausted.

As Romania g its rich endo materials which reputation for the need to buil industrial base grown. This b mately seen a higher living st

The energy ing slowly agai preserve its lin oil and gas, Ron a policy of str even at the c import large q oil production tons a year aga of over 20m. t is imported f East, mostly ag manufactured expertise. As a no oil is impo Nevertheless, creasingly de Soviet Union fo all its coking there, and R signed a contr delivery of 1.5b Soviet natural Romania alrea 30bn. cubic me it is not eno demand, and wants to negoti deal with t possible.

The Plan fo increases in p by 1 per cent. increase at all meanwhi is by 25 per cent. to develop nucl Romanian urani having to depe enrichment, Ro build a reacto uranium and i with Britain an necesary techno.

This spring, launch its first rig in the Bla believes the c has properties in the North S platform incorp technology but designed and b

The exact ext oil reserves ar some speculati will not give common consen cient for betw years at pre rates. Develop has meanwhile and coal produc to 56m. tons b

In the conte conditions ma still have to p overriding pre heavy industry misplaced. But principle, Rom share basic ind rest of Comeco possible must domestically. It pride that Ro announced it c per cent. of its itself.

EUROPEAN NEWS

ight security in Geneva or OPEC policy meeting

CHARD JOHNS

ERS AND representa- the Organisation of n Exporting Countries' are expected to meet va to-morrow for in- alks on price differen-

ian security measures force yesterday at the n Geneva and also at continental Hotel where laid Abdesalam, the Minister of Industry gy, and his counterpart tar were understood to ervations. Another set was said to have been n the name of a Saudi whose name was not tely identifiable.

suggested by certain hat Sheikh Ahmed Zaki Saudi Minister of Oil, rs were using aliases in a repetition of the attack which brought the OPEC ministerial conference to an unscheduled and dramatic end last December 21.

The session is taking place in unprecedented secrecy. Swiss police were quoted as saying that the security precautions at the Intercontinental Hotel had been taken at the request of a brother of the Ruler of Kuwait. In Vienna OPEC's Secretariat said—probably with frankness—that they knew nothing of the meeting but it did not rule out "OPEC-related" discussions in Geneva.

The talks are believed to be unofficial ones like the consultations last November on Third World representation at the dialogue between industrialised and developing countries. Those, too, were conducted in extreme secrecy because of the oil producers' fear of offending other members of the developing camp.

When the OPEC conference was held hostage last year by Carlos Illich Ramirez and his gang, Iraq was under heavy attack from other members for having trimmed the price of its oil to boost exports at the expense of other producers. A subsequent meeting to discuss the unresolved issue was planned for Abu Dhabi at the beginning of February but was cancelled because the majority saw no hope of agreement.

With the market for oil firming up and OPEC production having run at a higher level during the first quarter compared with the same period of last year, the problem of relating the price of various categories of crude oil—which is not confined to Iraq—may solve itself. An informal conference of the kind apparently about to take place in Geneva cannot take any binding decisions.

il price warning from Gulf

EWART FLEMING

NEW YORK, April 20.

IES E. LEE, President Oil, warned yesterday OPEC nations might ie growing strength of economy an opportunity oil prices once again.

ng at the company's meeting, Mr. Lee said the harbingers of this economic turnaround is the not so thinly-veiled threat that the OPEC cartel will consider raising oil prices when it meets next month in Indonesia.

Mr. Lee took the opportunity presented by the shareholders' meeting to release the company's first quarter earnings which show a further sharp fall in the profits from Gulf's overseas operations.

Whereas in the first quarter of 1975 Gulf earned profits of $76m. outside North America, in the first quarter of this year operations outside Canada and the U.S. contributed only $11m.

Overall, however, Gulf's first quarter profits are marginally higher at $198m. ($195m.) on revenue of $4.33bn. ($4bn.).

Gulf said that it earned 68 per cent. of its first quarter earnings in the U.S. compared with only 43 per cent. in the same period of last year.

On the outlook for U.S. oil consumption, Mr. Lee said that Gulf economists expect consumption in the U.S. to increase by about 5 per cent. this year and that there will be smaller but still significant increases abroad.

He added that the company expects domestic oil production to bottom out late this year and that by 1980 it will be 10 per cent. higher than the current rate.

But he said he does not expect the company will ever again receive the foreign crude oil profits of the past, now that its operations in both Kuwait and Venezuela are nationalised.

He pointed out, however, that the company had agreed to resume operations in Cabinda for a period of six months under the same terms as in the past with the aim of reaching a new longterm agreement.

Turning finally to the impact of the new Federal Energy Administration rules he suggested that by the time controls are scheduled to expire in May 1979, he expected new oil to be selling at $14 a barrel.

iergy talks resumed

PARIS, April 20.

d poor nations start the d most delicate phase economic negotiations norrow with the crucial oil prices a top agenda

egotiations, launched in on France's initiative obed the North-South by participants, are ultimately to lead to a hare-out of the world's Involved in the discuse representatives from the major non-Communist industrial States the big oil exporters and struggling developing countries.

For the industrial participants, including the U.S., Japan and the nine European Common Market members, the main interest in the Dialogue is the Energy Commission, which provides them with their only opportunity to negotiate directly with leading oil exporters like Saudi Arabia, Venezuela, Iran and Iraq.

Reuter

rtugal 'coup' warning

LISBON, April 20.

rancisco Sa Carneiro, of Portugal's Centre Democrat Party (PPD), lay there was a possi- "small palace coups" aged in Portugal after unday's parliamentary

ential elections are to ext June after the first tion for a Legislative in the country for half a century. But with the vote likely to end in a deadlock there are fears of right or left-wing coups being staged in the interim.

The PPD is expected to run a close second behind the Portuguese Socialist Party in the elections. But with neither likely to gain an overall majority, two other parties are waiting to be invited into alliance

Swiss put curb on imports of banknotes

ZURICH, April 20.

THE SWISS Government has issued a decree, to take effect to-morrow, by which the import of banknotes into Switzerland is limited to the equivalent of Sw.Frs.20,000 per person per period of three months. The Swiss National Bank will be able to permit larger imports to facilitate tourism, commerce and financial payments; the Government points out that commercial and financial payments are not usually in the form of banknotes and will therefore not be restricted in any case.

The decision has been taken in view of the recent influx of banknotes, particularly from Italy, which has had a disadvantageous effect in pushing up the already high floating Swiss franc. Apart from protecting their own currency—the measure forms part of an existing Government mandate in this sector—the Swiss authorities are known to be keen to show solidarity for Italy, which has been experiencing a substantial outflow of cash. Earlier this month, banks in the Ticino estimated that something like 5bn. lire a day was coming over the border from Italy.

There will be no currency forms to be filled in at the Swiss borders, Finance Ministry spokesmen said to-day, but incoming persons will be asked to declare banknotes "as they have to declare alcohol." It is understood that only spot-checks will be made, as at present for other contraband.

This would be impossible from a staffing point of view, as well as undesirable in the light of Switzerland's position as a tourist and business centre. There will also be no formal way of checking the three-month ruling, it is stated. Penalties for contravention of the measure will be of up to three months' imprisonment or a fine of up to Sw.Frs.100,000, while contraband banknotes will be confiscated.

● The Swiss balance-of-payments surplus for 1975 is now estimated by the Government as having reached at least Sw.Frs.8bn. This record surplus, which compares with one of only Sw.Frs.510m. for the previous year and a former record high of Sw.Frs.2.35bn. in 1968, had been put at between Sw.Frs.7bn. and 8bn. in estimates published as recently as February. The surplus represents some 6 per cent. of Switzerland's gross national product, a very high share for a Western industrialised country.

Agencies

CD seeking agreement on plans for Italian economy

BY DOMINICK J. COYLE

ROME, April 20.

THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC leadership was to-night trying to put together a package of economic measures for presentation later this week to all Italian political parties — with the exception of the Neofascist MSI—in the hope of reaching agreement on an emergency legislative programme and thus avoiding an early general election.

Sig. Benigno Zacagnini, the Party Secretary, met this evening with a number of the Party's economic advisers. It is expected here that he will commence his "final round" of talks with the other party leaders to-morrow, probably starting with the Socialists, whose abstention in Parliament allowed the minority Government of Prime Minister Aldo Moro to get a somewhat grudging inaugural vote of confidence two months ago.

But Sig. Francesco De Martino, the Socialist leader, has already indicated publicly that he is not interested in a further dialogue with the Christian Democrats, and has called instead for the immediate dissolution of the present Parliament and new elections one full year ahead of schedule.

The Communist Party (PCI), which in the view of most observers and on the basis of opinion polls is likely to do best in early elections, has been much less dismissive of Sig. Zaccagnini's initiative. However, the PCI leadership is known to suspect that the Christian Democrats may only be playing for time and trying to put the blame on the Communists and, in particular on the Socialists, for bringing about the elections.

The Zaccagnini initiative, should it in fact materialise in the form of specific economic measures, is little more than an updating of earlier and finally unsuccessful moves by Sig. Ugo La Malfa, the Republican leader, to secure all-party agreement on an emergency economic package. This would cover incomes policy, the overall level and direction of State spending this year, industrial reconstruction, new aid for the depressed southern region and some specific measures to ease the present high level of unemployment.

Sig. La Malfa subsequently withdrew, saying that agreement was not possible, and there is little real optimism in political circles to-night that Sig. Zaccagnini will be any more successful or, and this is perhaps more to the point, that the right wing of the Christian Democratic Party will permit him to advance the type of proposals which the Communists might consider seriously, or such that allow the Socialists to go back on their demand for early elections.

The Communists have also indicated that any legislative co-operation on an economy package would have to be extended to an agreement on the contentious abortion question, and therefore avoiding the national referendum on the issue already set officially for June 13. The intervention of an election would, however, result automatically in a postponement of the referendum and thus avoid for the time being anyway a head-on campaign clash between the Vatican-backed Christian Democrats and all other principal parties.

In the continuing political uncertainty, the lira to-day remained relatively stable without any obvious Bank of Italy intervention, and the rate against the dollar at the Milan fixing was effectively unchanged from Friday's close at 876.45.

The tone was generally firm on the Milan Bourse as the new measures effected to combat speculation on uncovered forward share trading took effect to-day. Rises exceeded falls by almost three to one in active if somewhat selective trading, with brokers reporting a certain amount of covering operations.

War codes to be updated

GENEVA, April 20.

DIPLOMATS from about 150 countries gather in Geneva to-morrow for an eight-week conference to create an updated code of conduct of war and to bar inhuman treatment of civilians.

The Conference, the third and final in a series begun in 1974, is aimed at overhauling the four historic Geneva Conventions of 1949, whose 400 Articles protect soldiers and civilians against certain abuses.

Delegates will discuss about 140 new Articles contained in two additional protocols to the 1949 conventions concerning protection for victims of international as well as non-international wars, including civil strife.

About half these Articles have already been approved in principle, but key topics remain to be discussed, including convention protection for armed guerillas in civil wars, a ban on reprisals, and ways to control breaches and locate missing and dead persons.

Reuter

W. German textile orders

BY GUY HAWTIN

FRANKFURT, April 20.

THERE HAS BEEN a measurable increase in orders for the recession-hit West German textile industry over the past few months. Orders in February were a full 22 per cent. up on the same months of 1975 and a steady 23 per cent. growth has been maintained in the three months from December to February.

The industry remains cautious about its prospects in 1976—quite understandably in view of the thin time it has had for the past six years. While it appears far more optimistic than it did, even a few months ago, it must be remembered that the upturn has come too late to help a remarkably large number of West German textile concerns.

Over the past two years some 524 businesses in the West German textile industry have shut down or gone into liquidation.

Schmidt criticised

BONN, April 20.

THE WEST German Opposition to-day accused Chancellor Helmut Schmidt of damaging the country's reputation in recent criticisms of Italy, and said his remarks had been prompted by the general election set for October.

Herr Gerhard Reddemann, parliamentary manager of the conservative Christian Democratic Party (CDU), said the Chancellor's attacks on Italy amounted to a thoughtless intervention in an allied state's domestic affairs.

In a television interview last Thursday, Herr Schmidt said strong Communist parties had only developed in countries like Portugal, Spain and Italy where old ways had been conserved by force for decades.

Herr Reddemann said the Chancellor had made clear he was referring to Italy's Christian Democrats and said he was trying to liken their intermittent administrations to 40 years of continuous Francoist rule in Spain

Reuter

Kremlin warning to parties in West

A senior Kremlin official yesterday warned Western communist parties they would weaken unless they expressed solidarity with other communist parties, Reuter reports from Moscow. Mr. Vadim Zagladin, Communist Party Central Committee member, was writing the latest in a series of articles defending "proletarian internationalism" in Pravda. Western observers have interpreted the phrase as a codeword for the Kremlin's claim to overall authority in communist ideology.

Norway cod moves

The Norwegian Government is not ready to discuss the present cod conflict between Britain and Iceland during Mr. Roy Hattersley's current visit to Oslo, according to a high government source in Reykjavik, Jon Magnusson reports from Reykjavik. The Norwegians are nevertheless quite active in finding an acceptable solution of the drawn-out conflict between the two Nato allies. Behind the scene attempts have been going on for several weeks and unconfirmed reports in Reykjavik indicate that an agreement is in sight.

Swedish economy

The outlook for Sweden in 1976 will depend heavily on the strength of the upturn in world trade and the speed with which the country's business confidence is restored, says the Organisation for Economic Co-operation (OECD) in its annual report on the Swedish economy, published yesterday. The Organisation notes that Sweden succeeded "remarkably well" in maintaining full employment despite strong deflationary influences resulting from the international recession.

Yugoslav strikes

Workers have staged about 10 strikes in Yugoslavia recently after a lull of almost two years, according to the semi-official daily newspaper Borba, Reuter reports from Belgrade. The newspaper said the strikes were mainly over non-payment of wages or "usurpation of workers' self-management rights." This was understood by observers to mean that individuals or groups took into their own hands decision-making power which belonged legally to workers' councils or assemblies.

Tito-Amin talks

Ugandan President Idi Amin arrives in Yugoslavia to-day for an official visit at the invitation of President Tito, Reuter reports from Belgrade. Observers said here discussions would probably concentrate on southern Africa and operations for Angola's non-aligned summit in Sri Lanka.

LABOUR NEWS

Hull docks row to go on; deal agreed at Liverpool

BY IAN HARGREAVES, LABOUR STAFF

THE DISPUTE between Hull dockers and the British Waterways Board slipped back into deadlock yesterday when a mass meeting of dockers decided to oppose their union's attempt to find a compromise settlement.

But at Liverpool a day of talks between union officials and port employers produced a peace formula in the three-week-old storegang men's strike. The 298 men will vote later to-day on whether to accept.

Developments at Hull represent a major embarrassment for the Transport and General Workers' Union, to which both dockers and Waterways Board crews belong.

Eleven days ago the waterways men responded to the 18-month-old blacking of their vessels by dockers with a blockade of the port's King George Dock. They withdrew under threat of a High Court action and an assurance by the union that a settlement would be sought.

Shop stewards

Last week TGWU officials worked out a peace formula by which the blacking would have ceased, but yesterday's meeting gave an almost unanimous vote of confidence to an unofficial shop stewards' committee.

The shop stewards are recommending that the blacking be maintained until the Waterways Board gives an assurance that the barge aboard catamaran (BACAT) container handling service would never be re-introduced at Hull.

BACAT was withdrawn 18 months ago under pressure from dockers who feared that the system, which by-passes conventional port facilities, would erode manning levels at the port.

Mr. Walter Cunningham, chairman of the stewards' committee, said last night that dockers would not be intimidated by threats of blockades by Waterways Board crews.

Another settlement carefully constructed by TGWU officials in Hull last week—to solve the demarcation dispute between dockers and the port's 70 cable riggers—was also threatened by a vote at yesterday's meeting.

The dockers say they will only allow the riggers to continue to fulfil existing contracts. Any new work must go to the dockers.

Mr. Cunningham said this was vital to prevent men getting work on the docks "by the back door."

The cable riggers have already held one strike in support of their claim for rights to all rigging work at the port.

The stage now seems set for a resumption of the acrimonious feuding between different sections of the TGWU, the port employers and the British Waterways Board. Sir Frank Price, Waterways Board chairman, last week attacked the port employers for yielding to the "crude power" of the dockers in tolerating the blacking.

Return to work

Meanwhile at Liverpool, shop stewards representing 298 striking shoregang men are to recommend an immediate return to work at a mass meeting to-day.

Following an unexpected meeting between the strikers and employers yesterday, a spokesman for the employers said he was optimistic that a compromise on the question of the non-replacement of two retired men would win the men's approval.

Almost 2,000 dockers were surplus to requirements in Liverpool yesterday as the strike, which has the support of about 1,000 other port workers, began to make an impact.

Vauxhall's demarcation strike ends

By Our Labour Staff

A WEEK-OLD strike by 1,400 car workers at Vauxhall's Ellesmere Port factory on Merseyside ended yesterday pending further talks on a demarcation dispute between the two major unions involved.

The strikers, members of the Transport and General Workers Union, returned to work, following the company's decision to suspend the unboxing of German-made components, traditionally the job of Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers Union members.

The TGWU workers had claimed an equal share in this unpacking work and had withdrawn from a previous "spheres of influence" agreement with the AUEW on this issue.

A return to full production at British Leyland's car division to-day depends on settlement of two separate disputes.

About 30 drivers at Rubery Owen in Darlaston, Staffordshire, who deliver sub-frames for Minis, are to meet to-day to decide whether to continue their strike.

And voting resumes to-day at Leyland's Triumph plant in Coventry where 6,000 car workers have been going slow in support of a productivity pay claim. The men are being balloted over whether they should resume normal production pending further talks with management.

Bank staff refused TUC membership

BY DAVID CHURCHILL, LABOUR STAFF

A STAFF assoication from one of the major clearing banks has had its application to join the TUC rejected by Mr. Len Murray, TUC general secretary.

The National Westminster Bank technical and services staff association had asked to join the TUC as part of its plans to create one union for the estimated 20,000 messengers, electricians, and other staff within the banking sector not performing a clerical job.

Mr. Murray, however, told the staff association that the TUC would prefer to see "some sort of merger" with an existing TUC-affiliated union such as the National Union of Bank Employees.

Mr. John Menet, general secretary of the staff association, said that his 2,000 members were more likely to be interested in a merger with the Association of Scientific, Technical, and Managerial Staffs than in joining up with NUBE, as ASTMS—who already represent Midland Bank's technical and services sta:, offered more autonomy if a merger took place.

NUBE, however, is keen to add the technical and services staff to its existing 100,000 membershsip. At its annual conference last week delegates voted in favour of changing the union's organisation to allow staff associations to merge with NUBE, but retain a considerable degree of autonomy.

Mr. Leif Mills, NUBE general secretary, described the National Westminster staff association's move to join the TUC as "bizarre," but said that the merger offer was still open.

Pay claim

A claim for the full £6 a week allowed under present pay policy was lodged yesterday by the Banking Staff Council on behalf of some 120,000 clerical staff in the major clearing banks.

The council, which represents NUBE and the staff associations, is also seeking an undertaking from the bank employers that the loss in purchasing power resulting from acceptance of the pay policy will be rectified as soon as legislation permits.

The claim, which is due to take effect from July 1, is intended to apply to all staff aged over 16 instead of the present threshold of 18.

A similar £6 claim has also been lodged on behalf of some 12,000 Trustee Savings Bank staff.

Teachers: no forced retirement

BY OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

LEADERS OF the National Union of Teachers yesterday won support for rejection of compulsory early retirement of teachers.

A resolution framed by the national executive was carried by a large majority of the 2,000 delegates meeting in Scarborough despite accusations that there had been a sell-out on the question of redundancy.

The resolution said the executive should continue to secure the best agreement on premature retirement compensation. Another resolution opposing attempts to use voluntary as well as compulsory redundancy to reduce numbers of teachers was defeated.

Mr. Fred Jarvis, general secretary, said the union had agreed in principle to Government proposals for improved redundancy payments. It had agreed to a scheme for retirement at 50 where redundancy was involved to bring teachers into line with other employees in the public sector.

Agreement did not mean there was an immediate threat of compulsory retirement, he said, but at the same time he could not guarantee there would be no redundancies. "We have to face the possibility there may not be enough volunteers and there may have to be some selection." In that case the union would use all the safeguards it could.

The conference also voted to give the union power to discipline members who went on unofficial strike.

A proposal to set up a national disciplinary panel was approved after angry interruptions by Left-wingers to a speech by executive member Mr. Max Morris, who said it was designed to "stop people who dragged the union's name in the dirt."

Bid to settle constitution of foundry body

THE TERMS of office of the 14 members of the Foundry Industry Training Committee had been ended "merely to establish the proper constitutional position," according to a statement yesterday by the directors of the FITC and the Engineering Industry Training Board, its parent body.

The statement follows a claim by a committee member last week that they had all been sacked and a denial of this by Mr. Hugh Scanlon, who is chairman of the EITB.

The members' terms of office had been extended three times, said the statement, in the hope of settling differences about the future constitution of the committee. The Board had finally decided not to renew them again.

The committee should start work again, with new members (including former members who wished to continue), after the Manpower Services Agency, which administers training schemes had considered the question.

The Technical Page

EDITED BY ARTHUR BENNETT AND TED SCHOETERS

● TRANSPORT

Operating efficiency of big hovercraft increased

Skirt fingers being cut from specially prepared coated fabric (natural rubber blend on a nylon cloth) at Avon Industrial Polymers' Melksham factory in Wiltshire. Presses for vulcanising skirt materials and components are in the background.

MORE economic operation of large passenger-carrying hovercraft is expected to result from research and development carried out by Avon Industrial Polymers of Melksham, Wilts.

For over three years the company has been seeking to increase substantially the life expectancy of the vital skirt components, especially the replaceable air seals known as fingers. These fingers are an essential part of the hovercraft's air cushion system and have to withstand a lot of punishment as the craft travels over land and water.

Strength and durability have been increased so significantly that Avon's new skirt fingers (the exact composition of which it is not disclosing) are to be used on Hoverlloyd's SRN4 which is costing over £5m. and is now being built by British Hovercraft Corporation at Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Avon is also to supply Hoverlloyd with its latest type of skirt finger for the craft now in operation as both companies are convinced that once fingers of the newer design come into use the length of time between replacements will be able to be extended, thus enabling the hovercraft to be kept in service for longer periods.

Hoverlloyd's SRN4 is expected to join the company's three other craft on the Ramsgate (Pegwell Bay)—Calais route in June 1977.

Hoverlloyd carried over 932,000 passengers and 153,000 cars across the Channel in 1975 and expects to increase this to over 1m. passengers and 175,000 cars by the end of 1977 when the new craft is fully-operational.

Mr. Frank Lane, sales manager (flexible fabrications), Avon Industrial Polymers, said that when Avon began its Government sponsored research and development programme in 1973, it was seeking an overall improvement in skirt finger life of at least 10 per cent. "We surpassed this target within the first six months and as a result of recent developments we have been able to achieve a further 25 per cent. in skirt component performance," he added.

Avon has worked in close collaboration with Hoverlloyd's technical and engineering staffs since 1968 when the Ramsgate-Calais route was conceived. During its research, Avon has produced skirt components in many combinations of compounds and textiles and these have been fitted to hovercraft of all sizes operating in many parts of the world.

The results of operational wear and tear under extreme conditions are being studied, analysed and catalogued at Avon's Melksham laboratories and will provide a wealth of data which will enable the company to solve skirt problems in other hovercraft applications.

Avon thinks this is the first scientific survey of its kind and while it intends to keep the precise formula for its skirt material to itself, it is likely to make known its general findings to the British hovercraft industry "within the next year."

Said Mr Lane: "Even when the Government's financial support for our programme ends, we will continue to carry on our researches at our own expense. We are confident that we can make still greater improvements in skirt performance in the months ahead."

● DATA PROCESSING

New system by Data General

PROBABLY the most important development in minicomputers since their explosive growth began four years ago is the announcement by Data General to-day that it is offering a COBOL commercial language system and attendant small computer able to cope with the highest levels of this language implemented on any machine.

This means the company is stating categorically to the 800 or so companies in Britain who are using COBOL at all levels and the 5,000 or so who have the language in daily use as their commercial data processing lingua franca at whatever level, that "problem transfer is no problem."

In other words, if a user wants to take from his main computer those applications which will benefit most from running on a real-time oriented unit—stock control, goods purchase and the like—the user will have minimal or no language problems in putting the work on to a Data General Eclipse C-300.

It reflects the fact that the company has understood what many of its contemporaries have not—that users are becoming more and more apprehensive of any move that will take them into lengthy software rewriting, because of the scarcity of expert programmers and the way in which their salaries have soared with time.

The COBOL compiler offered is to standard ANSI-74 and it has been designed concurrently with the machine on which it is intended to run. At the same time, it is perfectly compatible with the "Infos" data base management system for Eclipse.

The C-300, launched about a year ago, is a general purpose equipment which would start at about £50,000 to provide a sensible level of business support, running up to £100,000 and exceptionally twice that figure for twinned machines with a large number of displays/keyboards.

Against these cost figures should be set the expenditure needed by any user to move to a larger central processor of the same type as he is now using and possibly new peripherals, together with programme re-writing—the total cost of staying in the fold being perhaps twice to three times as much as that of installing C-300.

However, Data General is adamant that it is not trying to teach users their business—it is providing a tool and it is up to COBOL users to decide whether they can profitably employ it or not. Market projections for the U.K. alone suggest that Data General expects enthusiastic acceptance of its new offering when it becomes available in three months from now.

Further information concerning the compiler and the support equipment from Data General on 01-578 9231.

● COMPONENTS

Telephone equipment

ITEMS such as relays, switches, counters and transformers made by Telefonbau and Normalzeit in West Germany are now being supplied in the U.K. by Colstar, 233, Wimbledon Park Road, London, S.W.18 (01-874 4362).

The German company is a major manufacturer of telephone exchange equipment and a number of associated components and piece parts will be available in the U.K. Complete exchanges will not be supplied.

An interesting item in the T. and N. catalogue is a range of large-size alpha-numeric displays which offer an alternative to lamp or flap-type indicators in large-scale public information displays.

Individual point elements are clustered to form various sizes of matrix for character display. Each element offers an area of about 21 x 25 mm. which is either black or white according to which side of the front plate is presented for view. Changeover is accomplished by flipping the plate through 180 degrees about a central horizontal pivot line.

In either position the plate is held by a permanent magnet, the rotation occurring due to a pulsed electromagnet. Characters up to 224 x 392 mm. can be formed, visible at 250 metres.

Valve lock prevents tampering

DEVELOPED BY a British engineer, a valve lock has been introduced which replaces the existing manual control and, it is claimed, can be fitted to most types and sizes of metal and plastics valves.

Once fitted, operation of the valve is restricted to the holder of a coded key. Dual key and interlock variations are available, plus a choice of locking permutations. Fitting can be carried out without modification to the valve, or interruption of its function.

It is marketed by George Fischer Sales, Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7EE (01-253 1044), subsidiary of George Fischer, Shaffhausen, Switzerland.

● REFRIGERATION

Plug-in unit refrigerates cold stores

TO REFRIGERATE modular and purpose-built cold stores, or to convert existing premises for low temperature storage, a plug-in unit has been developed which, it is claimed, eliminates costly on-site engineering of pipe runs and thermal insulation.

Assembled in the factory as a self-contained package, and pre-charged with refrigerant, the unit, which is available from TransFrig, Cranbourne Road, Gosport, Hants., PO12 1RJ (07017 88131), is set through the wall of the store and connected to the mains electricity. No other services are required.

The unit was developed from the company's vehicle refrigeration units, and has already attracted interest in the developing countries because no skilled labour is required for installation.

Condenser and compressor are external to the cold room and are thermally insulated from the evaporator, which protrudes into the refrigerated space.

Cold store temperatures from −30 to +13 deg. C can be provided in ambient temperatures up to 49 deg. C (120F). Capacities range from 2000 to 68000 Btu/hr in 22 model sizes.

Defrosting is normally by the company's heat cycle hot-gas system, but electrical defrost can be supplied for the larger models.

● RESEARCH

Lubrication services extended

TILL THE end of the decade and because space work is so exacting as to the performance of the materials used in structure and fluids employed as lubricants, the European Space Research and Technology Centre will be supporting the work of the European Space Tribology Laboratory at Risley.

As the European Agency gets more and more deeply involved with long-life satellites such as those which are required to ensure a specific function, covering a wide area of the Continent from a "hovering" orbit over the Equator, so it will demand higher performance from all the on-board components of such—inevitably—more costly satellites.

Risley is to undertake a detailed programme of tests on both experimental and flight models of satellite components

Handling very high voltages

NUCLEAR structure research is the aim set for the world's largest tandem Van de Graaff accelerator which the Science Research Council is building at Daresbury.

One feature will be a 31-metre insulating column which supports a terminal to run at 30m. volts. This column will have to support exceptionally severe electrical gradients and the materials suggested for use have been extensively tested.

Borosilicate glass has become the leader with the best insulating properties of all materials examined. But it has to be produced in sheet form (thus there are no moulding seeds) and insulating discs are being made from Corning sheet at the James

● PROCESSING

Squeezing moisture from muds

ECONOMICAL CONTINUOUS mechanical liquid extraction units for use with muds and pastes are under development in the industrial process division of Bertin and Cie.

A large-scale prototype is being used to prove the system for different industrial areas and determine—for each product that might be treated—the range of characteristics to be applied for to the various machines which ultimately would be put into operation.

● OFFICE EQUIPMENT

Projector offers new potential

THREE options offered with a new projector are claimed by its originators to make the device unique.

The Halight 300 is based on a new 300W, 240 volt halogen lamp which does not require a transformer and makes for a compact and lightweight unit. Slide carrier and filmstrip carrier are simple and robust and where poss'ble all components are made of steel.

But the third attachment is a magnifying stage which allows users to project the images of living pond animals or growing crystals with magnifications between 50x in daylight and 400x in total darkness.

هكذا اصل الأصل

HOME NEWS

,eyland boosts ;cottish plants

ERRY DODSWORTH, MOTOR INDUSTRY CORRESPONDENT

THE investment freeze s at Leyland Cars, the .eyland Board yesterday vote of confidence in ck and Bus group by ng a further £10m. nt in its Scottish plants. jection of funds follows £10m. announced earlier r in the two Scottish : Glasgow and Bathgate, provide for a substan- nsion in both rear axle ne manufacturing.

gh Leyland concedes ck and bus sales are to be as good this year the Board's decision to with the next stage of buoyant, it is unlikely that they will hold up to the remarkably high level of last year, and at home the market has fallen below even the depressed level of last year.

In the three-month period up to the end of March, Leyland's truck sales have dropped from 19,624 last year to 17,246, although market share has increased by 1 per cent. to 31 per cent. Production for the year will almost certainly be down on last year.

Nevertheless, according to a statement from the group yesterday, Leyland is achieving production targets, and "maintaining its

Home News Pages 11, 24 and 29

i6m. investment pro- outlined in the Ryder ndicates that it is still healthy profits.

oard must presumably atisfied with the group's on industrial relations uctivity, the two stumb- :ks in the case of the ip.

ie latest tranche of in- is to go into rear axle uring facilities at Motors, Glasgow, where makes the Blueline f medium size trucks. oduction is to be in- by 60 per cent.

: Bathgate plant, where produces the light to Redline range, the £5m. nt will go into a 30 per rease in capacity for the s of 6- and 4-cylinder ngines.

ear the Truck and Bus ad an exceptionally good f exports, and achieved rofits of £27m. But while remain reasonably business base" sufficiently well to justify further investment.

The money that is now being injected into trucks and buses follows a long spell in the latter years of the old corporation when it was starved of investment. Throughout the early years of this decade the company found itself short of capacity to meet the high level of demand for trucks in Britain, and the new expansion will ease some bottlenecks in the production line.

At the same time, the Ryder Report—now incorporated into a new 10-year plan for the company—envisaged a large scale expansion in Europe from about 1 per cent. of the market in 1974 to 5 per cent. by 1985. This amount of growth is now regarded as highly ambitious in some parts of the company, but to even to begin to approach it, Leyland needs to invest in new products that stand up to the generally higher quality Continental vehicles.

:countants attack new ompanies Bill

ICHAEL LAFFERTY

.. matter of regret that is dealing with insider the classification of es in the context of EEC and minimum share rules, have not been in the new Companies Consultative Committee intancy Bodies says in a ndum to the Department e.

listinct classification of and private companies me a matter of some urgency since the draft EEC second directive, dealing with the formation and capital requirements of companies, is expected to be ready for adoption by the Council of Ministers in Brussels during 1976. Once it is approved, member States have 18 months in which to implement the directive.

In its present form, the second directive would affect all U.K. companies, although it will apply only to public companies on the Continent.

The Queen celebrates her 50th birthday to-day by holding a reception for 180 holders of the Victoria Cross and George Cross, two of whom will be travelling from North America for the occasion. To mark her birthday, the Queen was recently photographed in the grounds of Windsor Castle with Prince Philip and her youngest son, the 12-year-old Prince Edward.

Last night, 600 guests were entertained to a party in Windsor. They included Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wilson, Mr. and Mrs. Thatcher, Mr. and Mrs. Jeremy Thorpe and Mr. Edward Heath—but not Mr. James Callaghan, Prime Minister, who remained at his Sussex farm working on State papers. He is dining privately with the Queen next week.

Top priority hunt in Ulster for IRA mortar factory

BY OUR BELFAST CORRESPONDENT

THE ARMY in Ulster has launched a widespread search for the IRA's mortar factory.

While Republicans spent their Easter commemorating the 1916 rising, dozens of soldiers combed warehouses in the Catholic Markets area of Belfast, uncovering 25 mortar bombs ready for launching.

Senior officers at army headquarters at Lisburn believe that this was not the factory they are looking for. It could have been an assembly point for the lethal missiles.

Three men are helping police inquiries after the find, which included several hundred rounds of ammunition. Military hopes are high that information might soon be forthcoming about where the casings for the mortars are being made.

The fear is that the Provos intend making the mortar their favourite weapon. The possibility of serious casualties, civilian and military, from the use of such an inaccurate weapon is increasingly worrying the security forces.

The army, which has so far this year captured 33 mortar-launching tubes as well as a number of bombs, says the mortar has a range of only 500 metres and is almost impossible to aim correctly. Some already fired have fallen hundreds of yards from their targets. The most ambitious attack was made last month on Aldergrove Airport where a delayed firing mechanism gave the terrorists adequate time to escape before the fusillade was launched.

Army explosive experts who have examined the recent finds say that each mortar contains up to a pound of high explosive but that the danger lies in the fragmentation of the metal casing. Fired into a crowded street, it could kill up to a dozen people.

The Northern Ireland Office is understood to have made it clear to army commanders that the discovery of the mortar factory is a top priority.

The Government's major immediate headache, however, is the unrest among the Province's 1,900 prison warders who believe they are fast becoming the new "soft target" for Provo assassination squads.

Mr. Don Concannon, the Minister of State responsible for the prison service, spent much of yesterday in discussions with representatives of the Prison Officers Association following Monday night's shooting of two warders.

One, a married man in his 50s, died after being shot in his home at Dunmurry outside Belfast. A second is seriously ill after a youth shot him in the head while he was on duty outside the city's Crumlin Road Prison.

Prison staff have been told that security will be stepped up when they are off duty and it is believed that the Government has given permission to those who want to keep licensed firearms in their homes—a similar arrangement to that made for off-duty policemen and members of the Ulster Defence Regiment.

Dutch visit for Lord Harris

Lord Harris of Greenwich, Minister of State at the Home Office, is visiting The Netherlands from April 21 to 23: There he will have discussions with Dutch ministers on police issues, in preparation for the meeting of European Ministers of the Interior this summer. He will also look at Dutch methods of treating offenders, including the Dutch probation service.

Road traffic control changes proposed at Heathrow

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

CHANGES in control of road traffic at Heathrow, including a Private Member's Bill to give the British Airports Authority rights over the spur into the airport from the M4 motorway, are proposed in a consultative document issued yesterday.

The BAA says that despite the array of remedial measures already taken, or due to be implemented, the threat of a deteriorating traffic situation in Heathrow's Central Area remains unabated in the longer term.

"The BAA believes that it is necessary to take steps now to impose a positive control over the volume of traffic entering the Central Area whenever this becomes essential.

"An access control scheme has thus been developed to provide a method of diverting road traffic away from the congested main tunnel and the central roads network to alternative perimeter parking areas."

Under the BAA's proposals, a choice of charging levels will be presented to the driver when he arrives at Heathrow, based on whether he chooses to drive into the Central Area or park on the perimeter and complete his journey by mini-bus.

If he chooses the latter, he will be offered low-cost parking and a free bus service. If he chooses to go direct, he will have to pass through a control system, and pay on exit according to the time he has spent in the Central Area.

Precise fee levels are not at this stage determined, but they will not be less than the current rates per hour for parking in the Central Area and may be substantially more.

The proposed scheme would work on the basis that a driver entering the Central Area from the M4 spur or the Bath Road through the existing tunnel, would be required to take a ticket from a machine, recording time and date of issue.

He would then be free to use the Central Area roads and car parks, subject only to statutory controls such as waiting and loading restrictions.

On exit from the Central Area, the driver would be required to produce the entry ticket and a charge would be made, based on the time which had elapsed between entry to and exit from the controlled area. Current charges and controls at existing Central Area car parks will be abolished.

The control points for the scheme would be on the spur from the M4 motorway leading to the tunnel entrance and on the ramps to the tunnel off the A4 Bath Road.

No date for the scheme's introduction is given because the BAA wants to get airport users' views and also to see how many people will use the underground rail extension to the airport, due to open in the autumn of 1977.

In the meantime, while spending £1.3m. on improvements to the Central Area roads and car parks, the BAA says it intends to place a private Bill before Parliament in the 1976-77 session, to enable it to take over that part of the M4 spur which it needs for the necessary roadworks and the purchase of land to implement its long-term scheme.

"This cannot be left until such time as the traffic problem has demonstrably worsened, as the time taken for these Parliamentary measures is too long to enable effective measures then to be taken. "The remedy must be at hand when needed—not after the patient had died."

Justifying its case, the BAA says that traffic forecasts show a rise from the present 21m. passengers at Heathrow to 35m. a year by 1985.

"The problem has changed from one of runway capacity to that of meeting demands for terminal ground space and roads and car parking capacities."

At the same time, however, it will be impossible to go beyond the present capacity of 3,000 vehicles an hour in each direction through the existing tunnel, so that control over traffic flows will have to be exercised on the access roads to the tunnel.

The BAA says that use of the Cargo Tunnel for passenger use is not viable — the tunnel is too small and, in any case, will be needed for increased freight use.

There is also too little space for more car parks in the Central Area and additional parking spaces would add to road congestion there.

GLC calm on asbestos in flats

BY MICHAEL CASSELL, BUILDING CORRESPONDENT

THERE is no conclusive evidence that use of asbestos in buildings caused physical harm, Mr. Richard Balfe, chairman of the Greater London Council housing and development committee, claimed yesterday.

He said steps taken over the week-end to cover asbestos ceilings at a block of flats in Deptford, south-east London, were a matter of prudence.

It was realised only last week that corridor ceilings in Pelican House damaged by vandals were made of blue asbestos, dust from which can cause cancer, it is claimed.

Mr. Balfe added: "Something which has been in common use for 70 years has not suddenly assumed properties of mass murder and destruction." He said that unless the situation was handled responsibly, many people would be needlessly worried.

"Being a prudent local authority—asbestos is in fact used by every local authority in the country—we have taken precautions not because we know it is dangerous but because it may be."

GLC councillors and officials are to meet to decide whether further action should be taken over the presence of asbestos in its buildings. Over the week-end, several tenants in Pelican House called for medical examinations for all 53 families in the block.

Mrs. Wendy Lines, secretary of the tenants' association, said "We have been asking the GLC for two years to do something about the ceilings because of the condition they are in. Finally, someone came to inspect them and apparently realised what they were made of"

Blue asbestos was used in multi-storey buildings, such as schools and flats, before it's use in construction was banned in 1969. The Asbestos Information Centre said yesterday that the material became potentially dangerous only if property was damaged or during demolition.

A Harwell team specialising in hazardous materials is offering its services to local authorities which may be concerned about the latest developments. A spokesman said: "Blue asbestos has obviously been used in the construction of many buildings throughout the country and it is impossible to say just how widespread it is.

"In the vast majority of cases, however, it creates no danger because it is well protected. But when it is exposed it turns to dust and that is when the danger can arise."

THE QUEEN'S AWARDS FOR EXPORT AND TECHNOLOGY 1976

A total of 115 Queen's Awards to Industry have been made this year; 95 for export, 20 for technological achievement, including two on both counts. The following were among the winners.

1976

AWARDS FOR EXPORTS

Acrow

A LARGE group whose principal manufactures are mobile cranes, excavators and grabs, bridging and flotation equipment, steel formwork, shoring systems, freight containers, agricultural machinery and petro chemical equipment. Exports have more than doubled over three years to reach £32½m. representing well over half of total production.

Angus

The division concerned manufactures fire hose, extinguishers, foam and foam making equipment and industrial safety equipment. Exports have more than doubled to exceed £6m. over a three-year period. Some 60 per cent. of production is sold overseas to a wide spread of markets covering all continents. Notable success has been achieved in sales to OPEC countries.

BOC

A large group exporting a wide range of equipment and materials for industry including welding equipment, vacuum equipment and instrumentation, low temperature process plant and cryogenic equipment. Exports over three years more than doubled. The company's major business the manufacture and distribution of industrial and medical gases, the export of which with very limited exceptions is not practical.

Barbour Threads

A subsidiary of Lindustries, this Northern Ireland company manufactures thread and braid and in a field in which there is fierce competition has increased its exports very substantially to exceed £4 million per annum, practically a half of total output. The firm's success follows intensified export efforts resulting in the establishment of several important markets including Eastern Europe and Australia.

Barr and Murphy

A small company of process plant manufacturers with only 24 employees, specialising in the design and construction of industrial drying systems and pneumatic conveyors. Exports over a three-year period increased by nearly 250 per cent. with orders having been received from a widening spread of markets. A factor in the company's export success is claimed to be technical flexibility and an ability to develop new ideas.

British Aircraft Corporation

Consistent and high level exporters and winners of previous export awards in 1967, 1968 and 1970, the Corporation as a whole now receives further recognition. Contributing to the achievement are exports of civil aircraft, military aircraft, guided weapons, missile systems, sounding rockets and communications satellites.

James Burn Bindings

A small company with 148 employees and exporting over 65 per cent. of output, James Burn are manufacturers of binding systems and binder mechanisms. Consistently good exporters they have performed well against much larger competitors and have shown excellent growth in overseas sales. Particularly good results have been achieved in Europe and the U.S.

James Burrough

The leading United Kingdom exporter of gin for very many years, this company's exports over a recent three-year period have risen by £3m. to a level approaching £10m. per annum with 85 per cent. of total output exported. The company, which now exports to 170 countries, gained earlier Awards in 1966, 1969 and 1971.

Chivas Brothers

Over 70 per cent. of this company's sales are De Luxe whisky brands, considerably more expensive than standard brands and selling to the prestige end of overseas markets. Sales are practically worldwide and the company's exports have increased by over £11m. in three years to a total exceeding £35m. per annum representing more than 90 per cent. of production. Earlier achievement by the company was recognised in an Award in 1973.

Costain International

The company is a subsidiary of Richard Costain, one of the country's leading construction groups. Costain International has shown excellent growth in overseas earnings over three years to reach a level of more than £33m. per annum. Their efforts have been concentrated on developing business in the Middle East and among major contracts is a joint venture on a dry dock complex in Dubai to handle oil tankers up to 1,000,000 tons dwt.

Cummins Engine (Darlington division)

A manufacturer of diesel engines and components, this recipient is a division of Cummins Engine Company Inc., Indiana, U.S. Exports over a three-year period have increased by more than £12m. to reach a level of £27½m. per annum representing 90 per cent. of production. The division is the single worldwide manufacturing source of the Cummins Small Vee series of engines used in automotive, construction, industrial and marine applications.

Davy Ashmore International

Leading U.K. engineers and contractors to the ironmaking, steelmaking and associated industries this company has achieved an outstanding increase in export earnings over three years to a level approaching £40m. per annum and representing well over 70 per cent. of turnover. Special achievements include a £50m. iron and steelworks contract in Mexico gained in 1974.

Dunlop Oil and Marine Division

1973 export award winner engaged in the design, manufacture and marketing of large diameter flexible rubber pipes for the oil and dredging industry. World leaders in its product field the division has over three years increased its exports by £4½m. to a level exceeding £7½m. per annum with 85 per cent. of production exported.

Fairey Engineering Military Products Div.

Manufacture and worldwide marketing of a lightweight easily transportable multi-purpose tactical bridging system. The division's exports increased tenfold over a three year period to a level exceeding £5¼m. representing 83 per cent. of production. This success results from the product meeting the needs of a specific military market with additional use in disaster relief operations.

Gestetner Holdings

One of the world's largest manufacturers of stencil and offset duplicators, copiers, supplies and accessories with a history of export endeavour. For many years a consistent high level exporter whose exports have been over 75 per cent. of turnover and frequently above 80 per cent. Past export achievement by the company was recognised in awards made in 1966 and 1970.

Guest Keen and Nettlefolds

The award is made to the GKN Group as a whole and recognises the combined export achievement of all its subsidiary companies in the U.K. This large group exports a very wide range of automotive components, primary metal products and engineering products and supplies. Its export earnings have well over doubled in three years to reach a level exceeding £145m. per annum.

Guinness Peat Group

Well-known group whose export (both invisible and visible) earnings subsidiaries cover activities in commodity broking and trading, merchanting of plant, machinery, including agro-industrial projects, chemicals, and pharmaceuticals. Over a three year period export earnings have increased more than four fold with sales made to all parts of the world.

Sir William Halcrow and Partners

A leading civil engineering and architectural consultancy specialising in maritime works, tunnels, transportation projects, water developments, town planning and municipal and private buildings. The partnership's net overseas earnings have increased almost seven fold over a three year period. Special achievements include the Dubai Dry Dock.

T. S. Harrison and Sons

A subsidiary of the 600 Group manufacturing machine tools, principally centre lathes. Now exporting 55 per cent. of their production the company increased its exports over three years by £1.9m. to reach a level of £2.7m. per annum. This success results from the introduction of new all-metric lathes and increased sales promotional efforts in the oil producing countries.

R. G. Holland

This small company with only 48 employees is engaged in the manufacture of ferro-titanium for stainless steel production, and stainless steel bars. Exports have increased almost four-fold over the past three years to reach a total well in excess of £1m. per annum. Sales are made principally to Western Europe and the U.S.

Trevor Humphries

Mr. Godfrey Hounsfield with his invention—EMI's new X-ray technology, the whole body scanner, being assembled at Feltham.

Dick James Music

Dick James Music has increased its overseas earnings well over four-fold since 1973. The main sources of this income are music publishing royalties and recording royalties from countries throughout the world. Since the company gained an Award in 1973 the overseas activities of the company have continued to expand rapidly leading to the present export success.

Lancer Boss Group

Since its formation in 1958 this company has become one of the world's leading manufacturers of lift trucks and sideloaders. Exports, which are worldwide have increased almost three-fold over the past three years to reach £12m per annum representing well over half of total turnover.

Martin-Black

Manufacturers of high tensile steel wire ropes and roping wires whose export earnings over three years have increased by more than £2¾m. to a level exceeding £4¼m. per annum. The major contribution to this increase came from the development of offshore oil exploration business, both in the North Sea and elsewhere. The company foresaw the need for longer ropes of larger dimensions and invested heavily in new plant and equipment.

Mercantile and General Reinsurance

The company is the largest unit in the British reinsurance company market. Gross overseas earnings of the company have increased by over £16½m. in three years. Business is practically worldwide and outstanding success has been achieved in Japan and the Middle East. Overseas business in 1974 comprised 88 per cent. of the company's general business and 53 per cent. of its Life business.

Newell Dunford Eng.

The company manufacture process plant equipment. Over a three-year period, exports have almost tripled to exceed £2½m. annually. Notable achievements include the development and sale, over a period of 15 years, of complete plants for the manufacture of Gari, a staple starch food, in Nigeria.

Edgar Pickering (Blackburn)

A leading U.K. manufacturer of carpet tufting machinery whose exports have increased by more than £4m. over a three-year period, to reach £6½m. annually, with some 86 per cent. of production exported. A professional marketing organisation with good technical support and after-sales service have aided the development of a widespread market.

Racal Communications

This company is engaged in the design, manufacture, installation and commissioning of ground radio communications systems and equipment for use by military, para-military and civil authorities. Over a three-year period exports have increased five-fold to exceed £7½m. representing 68 per cent. of production.

John Ratcliff and Sons

A small family business, with only 40 employees, founded over 100 years ago. It has during the last two decades developed metal decorating machinery to meet a world demand from countries wishing to produce lacquered and printed cans and containers for various purposes. Exports have almost trebled over three years to reach a level representing some 82 per cent. of the company's turnover.

Royal Ordnance Factories

The Royal Ordnance Factories organisation — part of the Ministry of Defence—manufactures defence stores and equipment for the Armed Forces of the Crown. It also supplies Commonwealth and other friendly governments with a wide range of defence stores and equipment together with technical advice on aspects of manufacture carried out by the organisation, to assist in the setting up of facilities abroad.

Ryvita

The leading U.K. exporter of rye crispbread whose technology is claimed to be ahead of its Scandinavian competitors. Exports over three years have more than trebled to a level well over £1½m. per annum.

David Skellon yachts

This company trading as Fairways Marine is engaged in the manufacture and sale of a range of cruising yachts based on traditional fishing boat character and appearance but using modern materials and construction methods. Exports over a three-year period have increased more than five-fold to exceed £1m. per annum, representing over 70 per cent. of production.

Standard Chartered Bank

The bank's principal areas of business activity are Africa; the Middle and Far East, Western Europe and the Americas with more than 1,500 offices established in 60 countries. This large overseas network, branch expansion and the growth in business development activities have been the main factor in the group's successful export achievement.

Thorn Lighting International Division

The division markets internationally a comprehensive range of light sources, lighting fittings (industrial, commercial and domestic) and components manufactured by Thorn Lighting. The division trades world-wide and manufacturing arrangements exist in six major markets.

Viking Marine

The largest manufacturers in the U.K of ships' lifeboats in glass reinforced plastic, this small company with only 110 employees has increased its exports over three years by almost £1m. to a level representing some 68 per cent. of production. The company's markets are widespread and the export increase has been achieved despite a diminishing market.

Vogt and Maguire

Originally established as shipping agents this company has over past 15 years expanded its activities in ship broking and arranging charters and more recently has acquired vessels of its own. Overseas earnings over a three-year period have well over trebled to reach a level approaching £1m. per annum.

One of Costain International's major contracts ... dry-dock.

AWARDS FOR TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

APV

The award is gained for the application of computer control to the beverage and liquid food processing industries. The company's installation in 1972 in the fermentation area of the new brewery of the Scottish and Newcastle Breweries Limited in Edinburgh is claimed to be the world's first application of full computer control to a brewery. Subsequently computer control was extended to the maturation and canning areas.

British Petroleum (Forties project team)

The award is gained for the highly successful overall management achievement in developing and bringing into production Britain's first major oilfield, the North Sea Forties field. Discovered in 1970 it is now producing 100,000 barrels of oil a day (5m. tons annually) and as more wells are completed the output will rise to 350,000 barrels a day by the end of 1976 and to 400,000 barrels a day in 1977, then meeting about one quarter of Britain's oil needs.

EMI

The laboratories gain their second award for the development of the EMI Whole Body Scanner. Following the world wide acceptance of the Brain Scanner, the subject of the Laboratories' 1973 Award, further research was undertaken to provide more advanced techniques capable of giving clear pictures of the torso and other parts of the body.

Ford

The development of a sonic idle carburetter gains the award for this leading motor vehicle manufacturer. Developed to meet the increasingly severe exhaust emission controls on petrol engined vehicles, the company claims that the new carburetter has the ability to reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 90 per cent. and unburnt hydrocarbon emissions by 60 per cent. during traffic stops.

Hawker Siddeley (Hatfield Unit)

The award is made for the aerodynamic design of aircraft wings. Research relevant to the design of the wi... the European Ai... Hatfield in 1966 ... ment culminated ... which took plac... 1974 confirming t... namic design ta... achieved and i...

Rothai... Experir... Stat...

The award is ... development of h... insecticides. Tl... synthetic compo... the naturally oc... rins which are ... rapid action. fo... toxicity to mamm... they do not l... residues in the e...

Short B... Harland ... Systems

The award is ma... Blowpipe guided ... which is a man-... to air and surf... guided weapon ... supersonic ... missile with a hig... head. It has bee... standard weapon ... Armed Forces a... won export order...

William R. ... Pump D...

This small unit c... gains the award ... speed reciprocat... pumps. Develop... period of five yea... a pump capable c... thing from air to ... containing solids ... Sales in 1974 re... which £731,000 we...

Welsh Plan... Stati...

The station gains ... the development ... improved variet... ryegrasses. Fro... grasses, perenniel ... far the most im... involved in Brit... based livestock ... stable hybrids of ... value have been ...

AWARDS FOR EXPORT ACHIEVEMENT AND TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION

1976 1976

Export Achievement

COMPANY	PRINCIPAL PRODUCTS OR ACTIVITIES
Acrow Ltd.	Engineering
The Angus Fire Armour Division of George Angus	Fire fighting equipment
Aquascutum	Clothing
Associated British Maltsters	Malted barley
The Associated Octel	Lead alkyl compounds
Avery Export	Weighing machinery
BOC	Industrial equipment
Barbour Threads	Thread and braid
Barr & Murphy	Process plant
Bemrose Transfer Prints Division of Bemrose Spondon	Heat transfer paper
Bibby Line	Shipping
British Aircraft Corporation	Aircraft, missiles
British Engine, Boiler & Electrical Insurance	Engineering, insurance
E. Brown (Leathers)	Leather garments
Brush Switchgear	Switchgear
James Burn Bindings	Binding systems
James Burrough	Gin exporter
Cambridge Analysing Instruments	Scientific instruments
Caterpillar Tractor	Earthmoving equipment
Chivas Brothers	Whisky
Contractors Plant (London & Midland)	Plant supply
Cook Bolinders	Timber jointing equipment
Costain International	Construction
Courtaulds	Textiles
Crosfield Electronics	Electronic equipment
Darlington Division of Cummins Engine	Diesel engines
Davy Ashmore International	Engineering contractors
Decca	Electronic products
C. H. Dexter	Paper products
Druce	Contract furnishing
Oil and Marine Division of Dunlop	Rubber pipes
EMI Medical	Brain X-ray system
Engineering Laboratory Equipment	Laboratory equipment
Military Products Division of Fairey Engineering	Technical bridges
S. W. Farmer & Son	Structural steel
The Fertilizer Division of Fisons	Inorganic fertilizers
Ford Motor	Motor vehicles
Gestetner Holdings	Duplicators
A. Grantham	Uniforms
Guest, Keen & Nettlefolds	Engineering
Guinness Peat Group	Broking, trading, merchanting
Sir William Halcrow & Partners	Civil engineering
Harris-Intertype	Composing machines
T. S. Harrison & Sons	Machine tools
Henley Forklift Group	Forklift trucks
Hield Brothers	Worsted cloth
R. G. Holland	Ferro-titanium
Howard Rotavator	Agricultural implements
Plant Protection Division of ICI	Crop protection
Inductotherm Europe	Furnaces
International Computers	Computers
Dick James Music	Music publishing
Johnston Brothers (Engineering)	Road suction cleaners
Lancer Boss Group	Lift trucks
P. Leiner & Sons (Encapsulations)	Gelatin
Lindsay & Williams Industries	Specialist tapes
R. A. Lister	Diesel engines
Sir M. MacDonald & Partners	Engineering consultants
Manchester Liners	Shipping
Martin-Black	Steel wire ropes
The Mercantile & General Reinsurance	Reinsurance
Royal Ordnance Factories	Defence equipment
The Monotype Corporation	Graphic arts equipment
Munton & Fison	Malt extract
Manufacturing Division of NCR	Business equipment
Newell Dunford Engineering	Process plant
P.M.C. (Sheffield)	Pewter ware
Pauling	Civil engineering
Penlon	Medical equipment
Petbow	Generating sets
Edgar Pickering (Blackburn)	Carpet machinery
Victor Pyrate	Tanker cleaning equipment
Racal Communications	Radio systems
Racal-Mobilcal	Transmitters
John Ratcliff & Sons	Metal decorating equipment
Charles Richards Fasteners	Fasteners
Ryvita	Food
Saunders Valve	Stop valves
Serck Tubes Division of Serck Industries	Specialised tubes
Silverline Caravan	Caravans
600 Services	Technical education
David Skellon Yachts	Cruising yachts
Aviation Division of Smiths Industries	Instruments
Standard Chartered Bank	Banking
Large Cylinder Division of TI Chesterfield	Gas cylinders
TI Desford Tubes	Bearing tube and hollow bar
International Division of Thorn Lighting	Lighting
International Finance Division of Tozer, Kemsley & Millbourn (Holdings)	Trade finance
Transprints (U.K.)	Transfer printing papers
Viking Engineering	Engineering
Viking Marine	Lifeboats
Vogt & Maguire	Ship broking
John Walker & Sons	Whisky
Josiah Wedgwood & Sons	Ceramic tableware
The Wellcome Foundation	Pharmaceuticals

Technological Innovation

APV	Computer Contr...
Chas. A. Blatchford & Sons	Artificial limbs
Guided Weapons Division of British Aircraft Corporation	Rapier weapon s...
The Forties Project Team of British Petroleum	Forties Field dev...
Central Research Laboratories of EMI	Medical scanner
Ekco Instruments	Crane safety dev...
Ford Motor	Carburetter deve...
Froude Engineering	Dynamometer w...
Hatfield Unit of Hawker Siddeley Aviation	Aircraft wing de...
Instron	Materials testing ...
Marconi Communication Systems	Integrated telecir...
Tobacco Machinery Division of Molins	Tobacco machine...
Optoelectronics and Microwave Unit of the Microsystems Division of Plessey	Microwave device...
Rothamsted Experimental Station	Insecticides
Pump Division of William R. Selwood	Pumps
Missile Systems Division of Short Brothers & Harland	Blowpipe weapon...
John Thurley	Vaporisers for na...
Victor Products (Wallsend)	Coal face lighting
Welsh Plant Breeding Station	Hybrid ryegrasses
Wilson & Longbottom	Fabric looms

Export Achievement and Technological Innovation

Ford	
EMI	

HOME NEWS

ricerite stores to return as ecial range of cut-price shops

OR GOODMAN, CONSUMER AFFAIRS CORRESPONDENT

American Tobacco is ct the Pricerite name w chain of cut-price ling a very limited grocery brands at educed gross margins. end of May the com- have converted 44 of r International Stores n the North-west into stores.

argins in the 44 out- e cut from around 20 to about 12 per cent. he operation a success, need to increase the s by 200 per cent. costs will also be re- m about 8 per cent 4 per cent,—and the ll be trimmed from 00 lines in the average nal to about 500 big- ms.

e follows similar open- oth the Fitch Lovell Key Markets and the British Foods super- eration, Fine Fare.

All the companies are hoping that these limited range discount stores will produce a solution to one of the fundamental problems of most supermarket groups: what to do with small High Street shops at a time when virtually the only way to make money in grocery retailing is by increasing volume.

The idea has been successful in Germany and, if it worked in this country, could greatly intensify competition in the High Street.

The cheapest grocery prices are generally offered outside established shopping areas—either by discount operators like Kwiksave or by the new superstores—but the development of these limited range discount stores in central shopping areas could force other conventional supermarkets to reduce their prices on a far wider range of products.

The Pricerite stores will have an average sales area of between 1,500 and 2,000 sq. ft. compared with 4,500 for an average supermarket and 2,400 for an average International. The 500 items stocked will be mainly brand leaders, and goods will be delivered in pallets so that they can be put on display with a minimum of physical handling.

Savings will be made on labour by cutting out people like shelf-fillers, though International says that redundancies should be kept to a minimum as a result of the high staff turnover which normally exists in retailing.

Since BAT bought International Stores in 1972, the emphasis has been on closures rather than store openings, though over the years the company has bought a number of other shops, like the 135 Pricerite stores acquired in 1973.

In all, the company has bought 1,172 stores in its attempt to diversify into retailing, but over 300 of the smaller shops have been closed, with around 200 shut last year alone.

Virtually all the shops are now trading under the International name, but the group still has a number of very small shops left.

Though the new Pricerite concept may save some of them, it seems likely that more stores will be closed. The company has already said it intends to "re-cycle" £30m. by closing uneconomic stores and opening new ones.

The company is also experimenting with a chain of delicatessen stores and a more conventional form of discounting. The International name will be used over the delicatessen shops, but the larger discount stores will trade under the name Payantake.

The first two of these discount stores have been opened, in Luton and St. Austell, with sales areas of 5,700 sq. ft. and 8,000 sq. ft. respectively.

Unlike the Pricerite shops, they sell a range of fresh produce as well as manufactured groceries.

d to stop changes cigar duty

NETH GOODING, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

importers are to make ch attempt to get nade in the proposed arrangements which, tand, hit cigars more than cigarettes.

association, the Im- Tobacco Products Committee, is to have the Customs and Ex- rrow. The aim is to es made as the Finance through its committee

first sight it would hopeless proposition, there is no sign that K. manufacturers, their association, the Advisory Committee, support to the opera-

will have to go up in e than cigarettes on a basis as a result of changes due to take May 10.

: because a new ad or end-product duty of nt. on the total retail eing introduced, while nsating drop in the duty on the tobacco ade.

ompensating factor l with cigarettes, in re than 90 per cent. lue is accounted for bacco content. Cigars ch greater labour and content in the end the simple expedient of dropping the existing duty levels on the tobacco does not work so smoothly.

If no changes are made to the proposed new system the differential in price between cigars and cigarettes will widen again as it did when VAT was introduced.

While total tobacco product sales were on the decline in 1975, cigar sales went up by 2.5 per cent. to 1.64bn. The cigar trade is a low-volume, high-margin business of great significance to the importers, who have in the past been able to look for a 10 per cent. annual increase in sales.

The industry as a whole is still waiting for clarification from Customs and Excise on just how much time it will be given to pay the new ad valorm duty element which, after May 10, will make up around one-third of total duty.

At present duty is assessed by weight and paid as soon as the tobacco is withdrawn from bond for processing. The change will give the manufacturers more leeway—and help cash flow significantly.

Payment of duty certainly will not be made at least until the products are due to be shipped from the factory.

One idea the tobacco companies believe is being considered is that payment should be on the 15th day of each month.

/S subsidiary to make esterfields in Britain

NETH GOODING, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

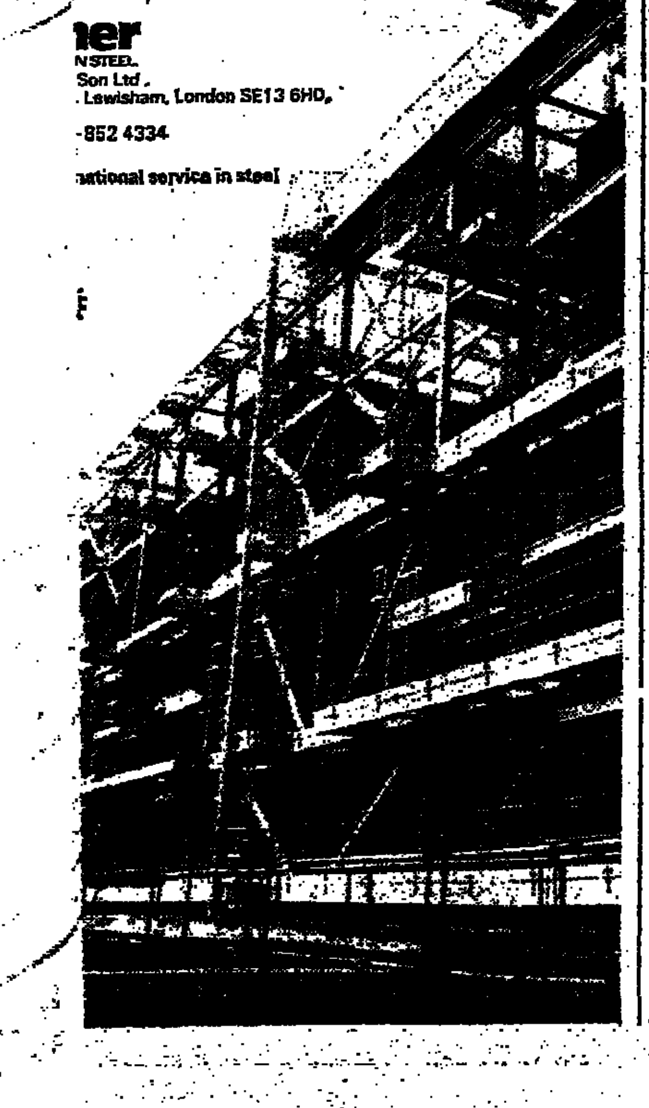
PERATIVE Wholesale bacco subsidiary is to n a major campaign . group Liggett and establish its Chester- brand in the U.K. will put £400,000 be- and in 1976, far more rnational" cigarette usually count on in

tract to make the itain has gone to the Tobacco Company, in WS is the majority

m making cigarettes WS (including the brand) the MTC es a wide range of cigarettes and processed tobacco products for export.

An MTC official said yesterday: "The volume and the style of the Chesterfield brand fitted very neatly into our operations. We know we can cope with the volume expected for the foreseeable future." This means that there has been no investment in new machinery by the MTC or any need to take on extra people as a result of the contract."

Another company to reap some benefit from the Liggett move is Siemssen Hunter, the quoted company whose subsidiary William P. Solomon has the exclusive U.K. agency for Chesterfield Filters.



Airlines meet to decide 'third class' Atlantic fare

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

SCHEDULED airlines flying the North Atlantic air route are to work out a new type of cheap "third-class" fare, to become effective next November 1, to enable them to meet the growth of low-fare charter competition.

This will be one of the main tasks of a meeting opening today at the Esso Motor Hotel, Wembley under the aegis of the International Air Transport Association, that will also be considering a revision of other fares on the route.

At present, Atlantic fares are fixed through this summer until October 31, according to an interim formula agreed in Geneva in late February. At that time, because of the difficulties involved, the airlines agreed to postpone consideration of a longer-term restructuring of the Atlantic fares situation.

This proposed new structure is intended to become effective November 1, and to last, with perhaps minor adjustments to allow for inflation, through the summer of 1977.

By starting their deliberations now, the IATA airlines are giving themselves ample time in which to hammer out an agreement, and get approval for it from their Governments.

Past experience has taught them that even six months is sometimes hardly sufficient in which to reconcile the wide differences of view that prevail in fares negotiations.

So far as the new cheap fare is concerned, it will have to be below the current cheapest scheduled London-New York fare—the Advanced Purchase Excursion or Apex rate, which varies between £123.80 and £167.40 according to season.

Their target is to find a fare that will enable them to match some of the cheapest charter rates that are available, ranging widely between about £100 and £150 according to season. In particular, they have to counter new charter fares that are being introduced, such as the U.S. "One-Stop Inclusive Tour Charters," or OTCs.

Glaxo plant to provide more jobs in Scotland

GLAXO, the chemicals group, is planning to build a £10m. factory just north of the Scottish border which will provide up to 800 new jobs at Annan, Dumfriesshire.

The contract for building the factory at Waterfoot, Annan, has been awarded to John Laing Construction and will be handled by its Carlisle office using local labour.

Work is to start in early June and will take about two years to complete.

The plant will give the company additional capacity for the production of pharmaceutical chemicals. Glaxo already has two other factories in Cumbria, one in Kendal and the other in Ulverston.

Development of the plant would be gradual, Glaxo said yesterday. The group was anxious to ensure a minimum of disturbance to existing amenities. Detailed planning permission is still required for the 168-acre site, but the local authority has approved the scheme in principle.

● The nostalgia boom has meant jobs for another 120 people at the Metal Box factory in Carlisle, as the company has resurrected a design first made at the turn of the century—and gone into full production of Edwardian tin boxes.

The design is known as Black Jap, a Japanese design which the company is exporting to the Far East. The demand for old-fashioned tins led the company to take on extra workers and now has full order books right through to the autumn.

"Old-fashioned fancy boxes are enjoying quite a revival, and we are one of the few companies to specialise in this sort of work," the company said yesterday. "For that reason we are taking the lion's share of the world market."

Sacked parish council clerk on £6 benefit

THE FORMER Clerk and Chief Financial Officer of Clay Cross Parish Council, dismissed in January for alleged "gross mismanagement," is currently living on £6 a week State benefit, an industrial tribunal was told yesterday.

Mr. Lawrence Humphries, 29, of Wingerworth, near Chesterfield, was appealing to the tribunal in Sheffield alleging unfair dismissal.

Mr. Godfrey Eastwood, for the National Union of Public Employees, said Humphries had suffered severe financial hardship since his sacking. He was out of work and receiving £6 a week from the State.

He was opposing an application by Mr. E. Marks, for the council, that the hearing be adjourned. Mr. Marks said the District Auditor still had the Council's books and they would not be available until next month.

Mr. Eastwood said that, had any other authority in the East Midlands been involved, Mr. Humphries would have been suspended on full pay pending an investigation.

Tribunal chairman, Mr. A. J. H. Morrison, said very serious allegations had been made against Mr. Humphries. "I am bound to confess some surprise that the parish council have not thought fit at any stage to particularise the allegations made, except in a vague way."

He adjourned the hearing and made a formal order that every allegation constituting gross mismanagement on Mr. Humphries' part, should be delivered to him by April 30.

If they were not particularised, he would exercise his discretion not to receive any evidence regarding them.

He directed that Mr. Humphries' costs be paid by the respondents as the adjournment was on their application.

Notice of Default

Maritimecor S.A.
(Maritime Fruit Carriers Company, Ltd., Guarantors)

Notice is hereby given that, although there has been no default in the payment of principal or interest on the obligations secured by the Trust Agreement among Maritime Fruit Carriers Company, Ltd., Maritimecor S.A. and the First Empire Bank—New York, as Trustee, dated as of August 31, 1972, and although none of the obligations secured by said Trust Agreement have been accelerated by the holders of any such obligations; notice is hereby given as required by Section 5.07 of such Trust Agreement of the following defaults thereunder:

1. Failure to furnish to trustee a mortgage on the M.V. Satsumacore
2. Nonpayment of certain assigned charterhires for the month of February.
3. Nonpayment by Maritime Fruit Carriers Company, Limited at maturity of a certain other obligation for borrowed money.

Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company
(Formerly First Empire Bank—New York)
April 9, 1976

Oil money plan to ease freight burden

NORTH SEA oil revenues should be used to reduce the crippling shipping freight charges to which Orkney and Shetland are subject, Mr. Jo Grimond, the Liberal MP for the islands, said yesterday.

Only last week, fares and freights for Orkney's internal sea routes went up by 22.5 per cent.

Mr. Grimond expressed deep concern at the mounting cost of transport and freight throughout the country and urged local authorities in the islands to use their oil revenues to help consumers, merchants and travellers with freight charges.

FINANCIAL TIMES SURVEY
Wednesday, April 21 1976

Jordan

Jordan, under the experienced hand of King Hussein, has moved steadily towards a state of political and economic stability. The achievement is all the more impressive in the context of a generally explosive Middle Eastern situation.

Order out of chaos

By Robert Graham

AMMAN. WITH its solidly built limestone houses, orderly traffic, disciplined pedestrians, tidy streets and busy shops, exudes a burger-like self-assurance these days. Six years may be a long time in the Arab world but it is hard to believe that this self-assurance is coming from the same city that witnessed a bloody confrontation *between the Army* and the Palestinian guerillas in 1970.

It is also ironic that Jordanians *should have fled in* 1970 to the safety of Beirut when now Lebanese have come *to seek security in Amman from* the fighting in their own country which in turn has been due in *part to the armed presence of* the Palestinian resistance pushed out of Jordan. There is irony too in the fact that Jordan's main political ally in the Arab world should now be Syria, the country which sought to invade Jordan in 1970 in support of the Palestinians. The lesson from this is that Jordan's ability to turn the other cheek and survive has been consistently underestimated. So for that matter has King Hussein been underestimated; he has outstayed all other Arab leaders and after 23 years of rule is more firmly in the saddle now than ever before.

The key to Jordan's present *position* was the *swift but controversial* way in which the King decided to eliminate the *Palestinian resistance from* Jordanian soil, a move which, though causing the deaths of *some 1,200 persons, palls beside* the barbarity and terrible casualties of the Lebanon. This *ensured that the King, through* the army, had supreme authority and provided the basic security *for economic development* which is now taking place. Prosperity, the elimina*tion of unemployment and a* sense of social and economic purpose have now removed the superficial *scars of 1970. These* factors have also created a strong incentive for the majority Palestinian *element of the East* Bank population—as much as 80 per cent.—to play a part in *retaining the status quo.*

Although even some of the deeper scars of 1970 are disappearing, nevertheless it would be wrong to pretend that Jordan has yet solved its basic *internal problem—the accommodation of a Palestinian* majority in the "Jordanian" minority *establishment.* The King has won respect as a clever, determined and courageous man, but the fundamental element in his support remains the Bedu-based army and non-Palestinians. The highest-ranking Palestinian officer *in* the army is a Brigadier. Past experience has taught the King to keep a very tight security network, and the message of a strong hand against any troublemakers has been made very clear. Jordan is now an extraordinarily orderly society. It is also a society which seims to have relatively few social tensions, since the gap in incomes is not wide and the small group of rich people are discreet in their wealth.

Reverse

Just as commentators wrongly predicted a grim future for an ostracised Jordan in a hostile Arab world after 1970, so in 1974 Jordan appeared at first sight to have suffered a major reverse when the Rabat summit declared the PLO to be the legitimate representative of the West Bank. It was a humiliating moment for King Hussein to be deprived by the Arab leaders of the legitimate leadership of one part of his kingdom. Yet in retrospect the decision has not proved nearly so unfortunate. It has removed the responsibility for a major problem directly from King Hussein to the PLO and the Arab world as a whole, and it means he does not have to involve himself, publicly at least, in the future of this delicate problem. He thus avoids any embarrassment of rejection from a population, many of whom have expressed hostility to further Hashemite rule, a factor confirmed by last week's West Bank election results.

Although the King has formally accepted the Rabat decision as binding, he knows that it is on the cards in a final settlement that the West Bank will need to come to some sort of federal arrangement with the East Bank. It is also probably fair to say that King Hussein himself has not renounced all hope of the West Bank coming back into the fold and accepting some form of his sovereignty. But if this is his private belief, he is nevertheless proceeding on the assumption of the Rabat decision being followed. He has removed a number of West Bankers from his administration, cut their number of senators and reshuffled his cabinet to include only four West Bankers.

In February the National Assembly, which contained 30 West Bank members and wh'ch was dissolved in November, 1974 in the wake of Rabat, was briefly reconvened. The main aim of this move was to get the Assembly to cancel a proviso passed in *1974* that general elections could be postponed for a period not exceeding one year. The Assembly then dissolved. Some saw this as an attempt by the *King to reassert his* authority over the West Bank. Almost certainly this was an erroneous interpretation. It seems the authorities were anxious not to hold elections which would only "*legitimise*" the Israeli-sponsored elections on the West Bank. On another level it seems that there was a general reluctance to go ahead with elections which might open up old wounds and force a cleavage in the delicate balance of Palestinians and "Jordanians."

The prospect of a reconciliation with the PLO is still distant. The PLO has never forgiven King Hussein for his crushing of the resistance movement in Jordan, while the King is most unlikely to accept PLO *forces in Jordan.* Syria's mediation efforts have been sidetracked by its own involvement *in Lebanon* and the complications arising from its role there. King Hussein himself seems in *no hurry to reconcile with the* PLO and probably feels strong enough to bide his time, recon*ciliation being one diplomatic* card he can keep up his sleeve.

The burgeoning friendship *with Syria has served as a use*ful counter to the PLO. If anything the recent events in *Lebanon have helped to bring* Jordan and Syria closer together in their attitudes towards the *Palestinian* problem. But this would have been only one factor encouraging King Hussein to seek closer collaboration with Damascus, in what is arguably the most significant new alignment in the Arab world. The Hasemite monarchy and President Assad's Baathist regime in Damascus are in many respects odd bedfellows, but they have a good deal of mutual interest in close co-operation.

Tense

From Jordan's point of view friendship with Syria neutralises what has traditionally been a tense northern border. Moreover after the Sinai agreement last autumn between Egypt and Israel, Syria was Jordan's only serious partner to counter an Israeli threat. Partnership with Syria also has the advantage of keeping up Jordan's credentials as a "confrontation state"—slightly suspect in some Arab eyes for its relatively small (though understandably so) contribution in the 1973 Arab-Israeli war.

As a result of these various reasons the two countries have managed to achieve a remarkable degree of harmony. A supreme Joint Council headed by the two countries' Prime Ministers meets every three months and a Supreme Leadership Council of heads of state meets every six months. In practice the contact is much more frequent. Certain steps have been taken on the military level, such as an understanding to co-ordinate military ranks and improve communications. Although this is dismissed as public relations by some, when President Assad visited Jordan this year he was greeted with shouts of "One people, one army;" at the economic level too there are serious discus*sions on* co-operation.

It should be stressed that this relationship is based very much *on an appreciation of President* Assad by King Hussein and need not necessarily apply to a *new face in the Syrian* leadership. The Jordanians have been careful to avoid talk of unity *in traditional* Arab *emotive* terms. They have been careful also not to commit themselves *too heavily.* But their commitment has inevitably involved a severe strain with Egypt—the *Egyptians* withdrew their ambassador and none too tactfully offered to replace him *with the* man who was in Amman in September, 1970, prompting the Jordanians to *refuse accreditation.*

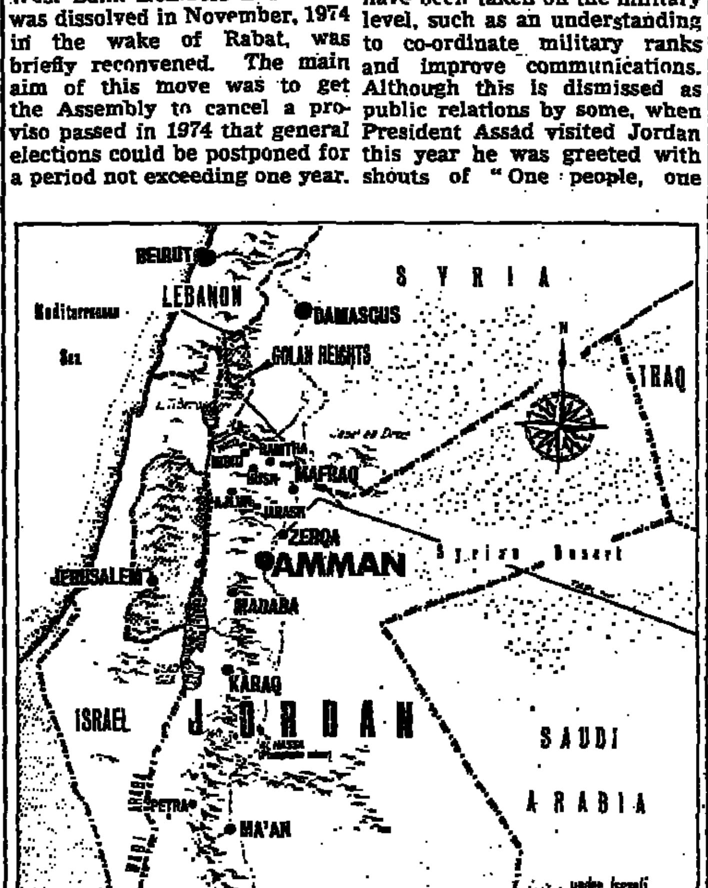
Defence

The extent to which Jordan moves even closer to Syria will *now very much depend upon* whether King Hussein can still obtain the Hawk air defence *system, with Saudi finance, from* the U.S. The deal has foundered on questions of cost, *though observers* believe it can be revived. Jordan needs an air defence system to provide a *credible defence posture to* Israel. The army is pressing hard for one. The King and his *senior officials have made it* clear that while preferring to obtain such weaponry from *traditional friends, they may* have no option where if they Syrians or the King Hussein Moscow in June

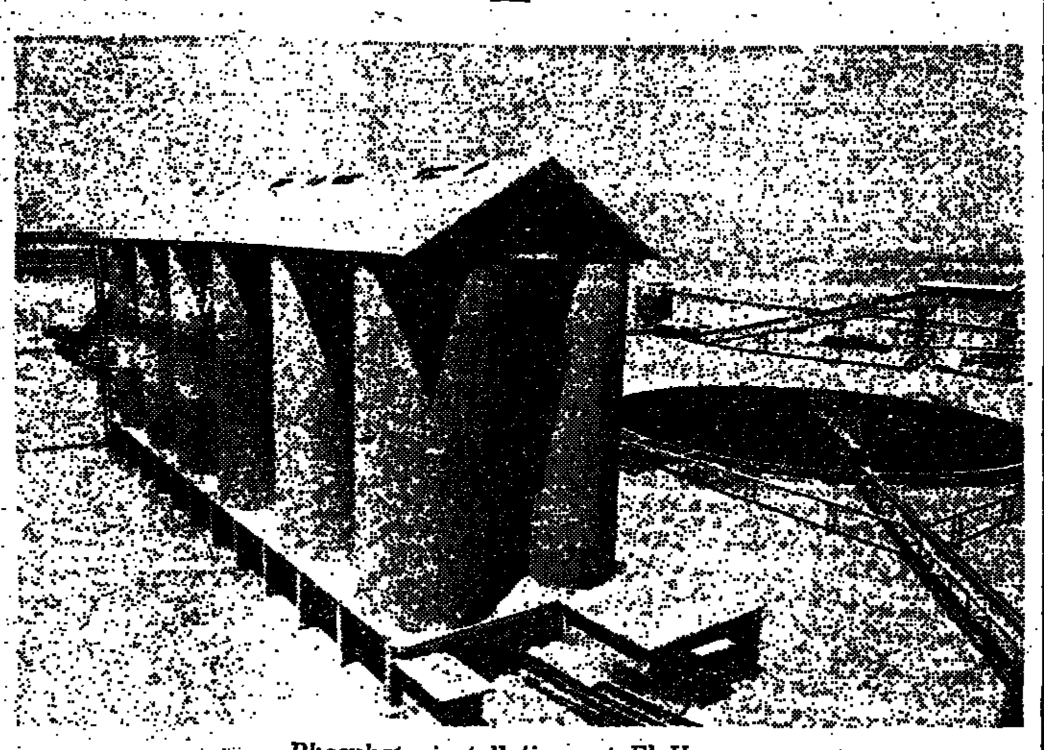
It is a very to make, for it dan's relations and its major porter in the A Arabia. But a Hussein has to that he canno vulnerable in a Middle East with the kno *alliance with* involve him in Israel. King H his ability to before, there believe that h *in the future.*

BASIC ST

Area	
Population	
GNP	
Per capita	
Trade (1975):	
Imports (to end Sept.)	
Exports (to end Sept.)	
Imports from U.K.	
Exports to U.K.	
Currency:	dinar



Economy copes with disruptions


Phosphate installations at El Hassa.

›RDANIAN economy has veritable punchball for traumatic events which ıaken the Arab world)67. It has had to come ; with the Israeli occupa- the West Bank, the un- effect and loss of confi- rovoked by the civil war and the disruptions of 3 Arab-Israeli war.

the exception of ı, no Arab economy has ł so much disruption. But no Arab economy has such extraordinary resi- The country is now : its feet again, showing st prosperity and confi- This has been achieved ictly limited domestic es through a mixture of but solid manage- ıuiet determination by thorities and a hard- population. At the me Jordan has undeni- ıefited from the spin off ıuge oil revenues in the

ugh this new prosperity ıng the traumas of the ank occupation, the 1970 ar and the 1973 Arab/ war, it is important to ise these past events in ›n appreciate just how e economy has adapted new realities. The 1967 bruptly terminated a ıf steady growth in which conomy was moving a "take off" point. It d Jordan of almost two- ıf its production via the the more evolved West nd added some 300,000 ›d persons to the East refugees from the West nd Gaza. The economy ginning to adapt when ıowdown between the ınd the Palestinian com- occurred, causing loss of y, productivity and all ınt Arab support (Kuwait led its annual Khartoum ments, Libya stopped all aid and Syria closed its . Then came the 1973 ł the closure of the Suez affecting export markets dan's main earner, phos-

effect the economy has ; than three years free ptions to regain momen- uring this time GDP has rom JD179m. ($590m.) 0m. A three-year plan overed this period from ojected an 8 per cent. ncrease in GDP. Growth has been marginally ıls, averaging 6 per cent.

As for GNP, this is ł to have increased at 7 — giving a current per GNP of nearly $460. gures apply only to the ık.

rowth rate has been ly affected by a poor ınce in the agricultural Serious drought and h last year and in 1973, y cut agricultural out- eat and other field crop ın fell by up to 70 per ormal levels. However, tbacks in agriculture et by a sharp improve- he performance of the uring and mining sec- h achieved an annual growth of 23 per cent. phosphate production, with higher prices and boom in construction were the main reasons As it was the industrial n index reached 194 mber, against 152 three .

ulative

mulative effect of this owth has been to create a boom atmosphere: spectacular like the producers, more con- nd orderly, but the s plain enough. Money t year increased 25 per n January had reached compared to JD139m. of 1973. Total assets ommercial banks rose from JD143m. to ınd are now approach- 3m. Loans advanced ommercial banks in- ł per cent. to JD98m.; commercial banks also their foreign assets by ıt. to JD11m. On the side imports jumped 55m. to JD207m.

pact of this increased of resources was in inflationary pres- nemployment drying ntial wage rise and a cost of living particu- non-subsidised food- new accommodation. of living index for n the 12 months to se 27 points or 14 per is almost certainly ıates the rate of infla- n was, and is, nearer cent.

lmost tempted to say that this growth is y mirrors, so slim are nancial and physical External budgetary a key factor under- overnment expendi- is discussed in detail elsewhere in the Survey, but suffice it here to say that roughly 50 per cent. of budget expenditure is covered by external assistance. Moreover, Jordan suffers from a chronic trade deficit which has been progressively widening. The narrow export base this year covered just over 15 per cent. of the import bill.

These inherent financial weaknesses are just one aspect of the country's limited means. Its sole major natural resource is phosphates, though they are not of the highest quality and are subject to the vagaries of international market forces (currently demand is slack). Phosphates account for 37 per cent. of export earnings. Soon potash on the Dead Sea will be exploited and there are longer term hopes for development of copper deposits in the Wadi Araba area south of the Dead Sea. But even with these resources exploited, Jordan cannot expect to be rich and will be fortunate in the long term to match export earnings with import demand. Agriculture is important because it can reduce the foodstuffs import bill of $130m.; but it is concentrated in the rich, but narrow Jordan Valley and round Irbid. Development is limited by a hostile climate and insufficient water supplies.

Understandable

With this kind of resource base it is understandable how important the service sector has become — especially tourism which earned almost $100m. last year for the balance of payments. Compared with other countries at a similar stage of development the share of the services sector in GDP at 64 per cent. is high. It has consistently been as high as this over the past 20 years, while the share of agriculture has fallen from 22 per cent. to 12 per cent. and industry risen from 13 per cent. to 24 per cent. The services sector is reckoned to absorb more than 60 per cent. of the labour force, whereas industry and agricutlure employ the rest in more or less equal quantities. Economists in Jordan point out that in other countries similar stages of development not more than 25 per cent. of the labour force is employed in the services sector.

Compounding the problem of Jordan's slim resources is the question of the Israeli-occupied West Bank. Over the past nine years the East Bank has got used to being on its own. Fruit and vegetables are the main items allowed across the bridge to the East Bank, believed to be worth between $12m. and $15m. a year. But this is a one way traffic. Subsidies are still paid to the West Bank municipalities and wages to civil servants totalling about $10m. But planning in Amman, reinforced by the 1974 Rabat summit decision, is proceeding on the assumption of East Bank development. The sole area where the East Bank continues to have—indeed must have—need of the West Bank is for tourism purposes. Beginning slowly Jordan has now been able to promote tours that include the Holy Land in the Israeli-occupied West Bank; thus demonstrating how well it has been able to adapt.

Increased economic activity has meant that the East Bank has been able to absorb the vast number of jobless who came across in 1967. Those that have not been absorbed locally have found jobs elsewhere in the Gulf or Iraq. When Jordan faced an unemployment problem this emigration of labour was encouraged because it provided a valuable source of foreign exchange in the form of remittances. Indeed this exodus of unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled labour has become a distinctive feature of the economy. Remittances through the banking system are now worth the equivalent of $150m., while the real figure is reckoned to be double this. Ironically this exodus is proving one of the greatest headaches for the Government. The Government cannot afford to lose skilled and semi-skilled labour at the rate it is without affecting its own development plans. Yet it cannot easily inhibit this exodus because matching Gulf salaries would be difficult to pay for and have serious inflationary effects. The Government hopes that the answer, though unsatisfactory, lies in the creation of more vocational training schools and encouraging more women to work, since less than 10 per cent. are currently active.

Asset

Jordan's supply of skilled and semi-skilled labour is arguably its biggest single asset. It offers the East Bank the chance to branch out into light manufacturing and small-scale industry which could service the whole region. It also provides Amman with the opportunity to take over, at least in part, some of the service function of Beirut. This is certainly what the authorities would like to see happen; and in the past year they have taken a number of steps to attract foreign investment, with tax holidays and liberalising foreign exchange dealing.

But the big handicap that any foreign investor faces—as does the local manufacturer—is the smallness of the local market. If one excludes the West Bank's 600,000 population, the local market is only 1.9m. by official estimates (and 2.1m. by unofficial guesstimates). This scale is too small to attract most investors—and helps to explain why until now there has been so little import substitution even in consumer items. This concern for the size of the market helps explain why Jordan has consistently advocated a proper Arab common market. More particularly it adds an underlying drive to the present political discussions with Syria on closer integration. Jordanians are still sceptical — given past experience—of close economic integration with Syria. Nevertheless serious noises are being made at the highest level about precisely this. Already an industrial free zone has been set aside on the border near Deraa and Ramtha, and the two countries have agreed to levy equal tariffs on imported raw materials.

Yet all these problems and opportunities ultimately have to be considered against the wider political context of the Middle East, which at any time can upset Jordan's economy. Jordan's gutty, determined performance deserves admiration, but most Arab countries do not give this, even grudgingly. This in itself mitigates against co-operation, while the unresolved Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian problem continue to threaten Jordan's attempts at economic development.

R.G.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, JDm.

	1974 credit	1974 debit	1975 credit	1975 debit
A. Goods and services	114.3	198.2	164.9	282.3
1. Merchandise	49.7	155.7	45.8	207.0
2. Freight/insurance ...	1.3	1.8	2.5	1.7
3. Transportation	7.7	7.2	14.8	14.2
4. Travel	17.3	17.4	32.2	35.8
5. Investment income...	8.8	2.1	10.6	2.0
6. Govt. n.i.e.	2.0	12.6	5.9	17.3
8. Other services	27.5	1.2	53.1	3.8
(Remittances)	(24.1)	—	(46.7)	—
Net goods and services ...		83.8		117.4
Trade balance		105.9		161.3
B. Transfer payments	86.8	0.1	151.5	0.6
9. Private	2.4	0.1	1.9	0.6
10. Government	84.4	—	149.6	—
i Arab	(46.6)		(117.4)	
ii U.S.	(25.3)		(22.3)	
iii UNWRA	(8.7)		(9.9)	
Total A and B	2.9		33.5	

Source: Central Bank (where totals do not tally rounding has taken place).

CENTRAL GOVERNMENT BUDGET (JDm.)

	1972	1973	1974	1975
Revenue	98.7	103.3	125.1	188.8
Domestic	42.8	46.0	63.2	84.2
Foreign grants	44.4	45.0	52.9	86.5
Foreign borrowing ...	10.2	11.1	8.9	18.1
SDRs	1.1			
IMF		1.1		
Expenditure	101.5	114.7	151.5	181.2
Recurring	70.4	76.2	104.8	126.9
Capital	31.1	38.5	46.7	54.3
Surplus/Deficit	−2.8	−11.3	−26.4	7.6
Domestic borrowing	5.0	6.7	13.0	7.0
Treasury Bills	—	2.7	5.0	1.0
Government Bonds ...	5.0	4.0	8.0	6.0

Source: Central Bank (where totals do not add up rounding has taken place).

CONTRIBUTION BY SECTOR TO GDP (per cent.)

	1975	1980
A. Productive sectors	35.2	44.1
Agriculture	10.3	8.3
Mining/manufacturing	15.6	28.3
Construction	7.6	5.3
Electricity/water supply	1.7	2.2
B. Services sectors	64.8	55.9
Transport/communications ...	9.0	8.4
Trade	19.0	15.3
Financial institutions	1.7	2.2
Ownership of dwellings	5.9	5.9
Public admin./defence	19.0	15.2
Other	10.3	8.9
GDP	100.0	100.0

Source: National Planning Council.

Amman's emergence

THE DEMISE of Beirut as a regional banking and commercial centre of the Middle East has led to the immediate need for an alternative location and also the search for a city for basing operations in the longer term.

It is clear that no single city that can replace Beirut, but many smaller and more specialised business centres are cropping up round about. Amman is one of these, and more than any other city perhaps it has sought systematically to attract international companies seeking a new base of operations in the Middle East.

It would be unfair, indeed incorrect, to suggest that Amman has gone around vulture-like trying to nourish itself off the charred carcass of Beirut. It is anyway quite impossible for Amman to aspire to become anything near what Beirut has been in terms of a regional financial and commercial centre. *But it is well within Amman's means —and clearly its aim—to attract* a limited share of the refugee-like international offices now wandering the Middle East in search of a viable and secure business base.

Robust

The reality of Amman is that it is a pleasant, robust, dependable, well-located and relatively well-endowed city with the requisite infrastructural resources to cater for its growing and ever more *cosmopolitan* commercial community.

Its drawback is that it is all this but not very much more.

A host of official and private figures have recited the glories of Amman during the past year, and the State sought to encourage the influx of foreign firms by issuing a decree in late 1975 offering attractive benefits to any company that settles in Amman.

The Registration of Foreign Companies Law offers the following to a company that sets up in Amman for business in the Middle East:

● A decision within one week by the Industry and Trade Ministry on a company's application to set up shop in Amman.

● Exemption from a wide range of registration fees and the need *to obtain business licences; from* income tax and social services *tax on gains and profits derived* from business outside Jordan; *from Customs duties, import fees and all other additional charges on furniture and equipment the company brings into the country to conduct its busi*ness; from the need to register *with and pay fees to* the Chambers of Commerce and Industry and professional associations; from restrictions on bringing into the country commercial and industrial samples related to the company's business.

● Authorisation for the company to open non-resident bank accounts with commercial banks in Jordan in any currency with total freedom of currency *movements*.

● Exemption for foreign personnel of the company from income tax and social security *taxes on their wages*, and the right of these personnel to bring *into Jordan duty-free* their household furniture and one car.

There is also an unwritten law that a new foreign company in Amman is to receive prompt action on requests for telephones and telex facilities, post office boxes and other such business facilities.

There is a simultaneous effort underway by the Central Bank to attract more international banks to open branches in Jordan. Central Bank Governor Said Nabulsi recently announced that several foreign banks (so far unidentified) would be given licences to open Amman offices.

Chase Manhattan opened its doors in Amman on April 11, and among other interested banks seeking a niche in the local market are Banco Hispano-Americano, Deutsche Bank and Sweden's Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken.

Banks operating in Jordan have recently been authorised by the Central Bank to exclude non-resident deposits from the 12 per cent. legal reserve requirement and place these funds with correspondent banks abroad if so desired. In the past six months, in fact, non-resident bank deposits in Jordan have trebled. This is widely believed to reflect the increased business of the new foreign companies in the country.

Some 50 foreign companies have been sufficiently enticed by the look of things in Amman to move in during the past half-year. Some of these —like Holiday Inn, ITT and a host of smaller engineering and services companies — were clearly impelled to leave Beirut because of the fighting, which is also why some international organisations like UNRWA have moved several hundred people into Amman. Other *companies, most notably* Bechtel, had already eyed *Amman as a logical centre to* set up or expand operations.

What is taking place in Amman is a two-pronged drive to attract foreign companies seeking regional office, and simultaneously to develop more sophisticated financial structures and institutions which in the long run would also make Amman something of a regional money and capital market, even if a limited one.

Efforts to develop a stock market and a bonds market, along with the moves to attract banks and, for all practical purposes end restrictions on the movement of currencies, fall into the category of what Central Bank Governor Nabulsi calls Jordan's efforts "to aid the process of attracting capital."

While Bahrain has clearly surged ahead as the pre-eminent offshore banking centre in the Middle East, the new Jordanian banking laws are to be viewed within this same context. If it is unrealistic to talk of Jordan as an offshore banking centre, it is certainly part of the Government's desire to promote sorely needed financial institutions that might come up with part of the $2.36bn. required to see through the country's 1976-1980 five-year development plan.

When people such as Mr. Nabulsi and many others talk about Jordan's "positive attitude towards private capital," they are simply reaffirming what is obvious to anyone *who visits* the country. Nestling as it does *in a neighbourhood of oil giants,* small free-for-all economies and heavily State-regulated ones, Jordan has maintained its healthy economic momentum through a commitment to private capital and individual initiative.

Catalyst

The State steps in where it can best provide those services and infrastructural necessities that act as a catalyst to, and not a regulator of, private business.

Among these are a good *internal telephone system,* (far better than Beirut's), immediate telephone and telex connections with anywhere in the world via Jordan's satellite station, an excellent postal service with an equally reliable cables department, a good national road network, and a well-planned, well-serviced capital in Amman that is without question the most comfortable place to live in the Middle East.

Other assets include a work-*force with the technical and* specialised commercial skills that are essentia ness operation, a climate with a m eight months of f sunshine, adequ good medical ser extras as a won traffic jams an courtesy quotien to beat.

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Rami

Foreign aid

ONE OF the ironies, or accidents, of the Middle East financial picture is that there are some countries with huge surpluses and others, with major budgetary problems, heavily dependent on external support. Jordan—along with Egypt, Tunisia and the two Yemens—falls into the latter category. Without foreign grants from the Arab countries and the U.S., Jordan would be a poor country *indeed, incapable of carrying out* a reasonable development programme.

In the past four years foreign *grants and foreign borrowing* have been responsible for underpinning between 49 per cent. and 55 per cent. of total revenues. Foreign grants covered 47 per cent. of total expenditure, or JD86.5m. ($285m.) out of JD181.2m. ($597m.) last year.

These figures speak for themselves and one hardly need underline the extent to which Jordan is dependent upon the commitments of others. But perhaps to emphasise the disparity that exists in the Arab world last year's expenditure in Jordan was roughly one third of the income Kuwait derived *from its investments* abroad alone or the entire amount Jordan intends to disburse in its Five Year Plan (1976-80) of $2.5bn. is under two months of Saudi surplus income.

Jordan has been able to attract this foreign assistance through its traditional alliances with Western countries, especially the U.S., and through its being one of the frontline Arab States with Israel. The essential component in direct aid are the so-called Khartoum payments, *agreed in 1967 by the richer* Arab States in the wake of the *1967 war. Under this arrange*ment Saudi Arabia pledged an annual $41m. and Kuwait $39m. Libya too agreed to chip in but *suspended payments in 1970* and has not resumed since. Kuwait, which also suspended payments in 1970 as result of the civil war, renewed them in 1973.

Since 1971 direct Arab budget assistance has been worth $570m., while U.S. budget support *during this period* has been worth just under $300m. On the Arab side last year this support was divided as follows: Saudi Arabia $89m.; Kuwait $38m.; Abu Dhabi $45m.; Qatar $46m. and Iraq $14m.

These funds have been given directly to iron out budgetary problems and have been treated as non-returnable grants. Not included are certain non-returnable funds handed over to purchase weapons, or in the case of Iran a seeming gift of the weapons themselves (F5s). In addition Jordan has also sought increasingly to obtain soft development loans from within the Arab world, from the European Community countries and from international institutions like the IDA. Last year these soft loans were equivalent to $59m.

This inflow of funds has helped to resolve what would otherwise be a serious budget deficit problem and balance of payments difficulties. *Last year the traditional budget deficit was even turned into a* small surplus of $22m.

Although most of these loans are soft, nevertheless over the *years Jordan has accumulated* a debt burden which it cannot *afford to see increase very sub*stantially. At the end of 1975 total Government debt outstanding amounted to $280m., while Government-guaranteed debt amounted to a further $25m. External debt payments in the last quarter of 1975 totalled $59m. on the principal and $25m. in interest.

Borrowing

Even with the budget support heavy domestic borrowing by *the Government in the form* of bonds and treasury bills has *been a major feature. In the* past five years the Government has raised the equivalent of $85m. in bonds and $56m. in treasury bills.

The Government has made great strides in boosting internal revenues to meet dinar expenditure. Since 1971 total domestic revenues have more than doubled to JD84m. ($277m.), the early increases coming from customs duty and *income-tax. But this increase* has difficulty in keeping up with *expenditure;* and domestic revenues currently cover no *more than 46 per cent. of both* recurring and capital expenditure.

On the balance-of-payments *side, the inflow of foreign funds* plus travel receipts and remit*tances from Jordanians abroad* has usually counterbalanced a *chronic trade deficit, thus* creating a small surplus. The *trade gap has widened from* $256m. to $530m. since 1972. *But this has been offset both* by transfer payments, now *worth $499m., and a big surge* in remittances.

One side-effect of the Lebanese crisis has been the *transfer* to Amman of funds normally kept in or remitted to *Beirut by Jordanians.* The result is a doubling to over $150m. *in remittances passing* through the banking system. *The real amount is reckoned* to be nearer $300m. This, *added to higher receipts under* the travel account, helped to *create $110m. surplus last year.*

This surplus has in turn helped to strengthen foreign reserves. Last month Jordan's total foreign reserves stood at the equivalent of $635m. (over seven months imports). However, this figure is that high thanks to $116m. being paid into reserves by Saudi Arabia as a once-and-for-all payment footing the bill for a settlement between Jordan and Tapline over a long standing transit dues dispute. In fact, if this *sum is subtracted (and it will* be paid out over the year), *reserves are virtually the same* now as this time last year and the Central Bank expects them to drop lower as plan disbursements begin.

Although the strong performance of invisibles is an encouraging element for the authorities, this in itself cannot cover import needs and the widening trade gap. This year imports will cost Jordan almost $1bn. Moreover, domestic revenues cannot hope to cover the dinar cost of development *in the Five Year Plan* initiated this year. Thus, though the aim *of the Plan is to bring about* a situation whereby the trade deficit is cut and dependence upon external budgetary support is limited, the Plan itself requires very substantial assistance.

Public sector investments of JD383m. ($1.2bn.) will require total resources of JD574m. Of this 46.5 per cent. will come from foreign loans, 30.6 per cent. from the current account surplus, 19.2 per cent. from domestic borrowing and just *under 4 per cent. from capital* transfers from abroad. To achieve this an essential element will be to increase domestic revenues at rates higher than those of recurring expenditures to realise a rising level of the surplus on current account. In addition the financial resources of the private sector will have to be mobilised through development bonds and productive investments. Already the Central Bank is promoting a more active interest rate structure and the creation of a stock exchange to attract funds from what is a highly liquid economy.

The private sector, which will be responsible for investing the same amount as the public sector during the Plan, will have to mobilise total resources of JD498m. ($1.6bn.). Of this, just under 15 per cent. is expected to come from foreign loans.

Thus it is all too obvious that the success in attracting these foreign funds will depend first upon the confidence that Jordan itself can generate abroad, and secondly upon the political stability of the region. Unfortunately for Jordan these two elements are more or less inter-linked. That Jordan has managed so far to attract the necessary funds is a tribute to its determination and its unglamorous but sensible use of resources. But it has not always been easy.

This has made Jordan wary of placing too much reliance upon an exclusive Arab source of funds. Only recently this point was emphasised by King Hussein's visits to Australia, *Japan, and latterly the U.S.* and Canada. Widening the *base of financial support helps* to mitigate against the many unforeseeable obstacles that may occur in this highly volatile region.

R.G

هكذا صدر الأصل

Development Plan's modest aims

ɪS Five-year Plan is a document, measuring ambition against the of limited resources. ɪvestment expenditure period 1976-80 has at JD765m. or $2.5bn., e public and private contributing in equal ɔns. This anticipated nt refers exclusively to t Bank, and indeed deliberately ignores of the Israeli-occupied ank. Although much appen at the inter-political level during span, officials at the Planning Council—the ponsible for the Plan—of this investment as ly "regional," designed gthen the East Bank without in any way g from possible future h the West Bank.

lan has been drawn up eful reference to the Three-year Plan, 1973-is was the first serious to manage development e framework of a plan disruptions of the 1967 eli war and the 1970 r. Not only is the plan broader in scope also envisages much growth. In the Three-n the total investment as JD179m. ($590m.), anticipated annual rate in GDP of 8 per lthough the growth rate fell short at 6 per er 80 per cent. of the were realised and ent. of the investment et. Such a performance tionally good for any developing country and has laid a sound base for proceeding with the much more substantial Five-year Plan.

The overriding consideration of the Plan is to boost productive capacity and strengthen the movement towards self-sustained growth. Within this overall context the Plan hopes to raise per capita income, narrow the incomes gap, reduce the chronic trade deficit and make domestic revenues the main source of public revenues so that they can cover recurrent expenditure and provide increasing proportions of public capital expenditure.

The planners have plumped for a 12 per cent. annual growth rate in GDP, raising GDP from JD290m. to JD508m. Though not high compared with some of its Arab neighbours, this represents a very sharp increase in GDP compared to the previous Plan—and indeed to the past 15 years. Emphasising the Kingdom's belief in free enterprise, the private sector is being called upon to play an equal role. Anticipated investment has been split JD382m. for the public sector and JD383m. for the private sector. Thus this should increase fixed investment to GDP from 32 per cent. to 36.4 per cent.

Investment is expected to rise from last year's JD95m. to JD150m. in the first year of the Plan, reaching a peak of JD181m. in 1977 and then gradually declining. This reflects the large outlays in the first three years on a number of projects in the productive sectors—for instance phosphates, fertilisers, and expanding the petroleum refinery — and on infrastructure items such as Aqaba port and Amman's new international airport.

Priority has been given to three areas of production—mining and industry, tourism and agriculture—and expanding the existing infrastructure. Thus the economic sector (comprising agriculture, irrigation, electricity, communications and trade, mining and industry, tourism and transportation) has been allocated 76 per cent. of total resources, while the social sectors have been earmarked 24 per cent. Nevertheless it is significant that housing and Government buildings should be put down for JD86m. or 11 per cent. of total investments.

Mining

The main sector upon which the authorities are relying to generate growth is mining and manufacturing. By expanding phosphate production, petroleum products, cement and at the same time establishing new enterprises such as phosphatic fertilisers and copper mining, the hope is to achieve a 26 per cent. annual growth rate in this sector. Total allocations to this sector amount to JD229m.

Almost 75 per cent. of this investment will be absorbed by five projects. The largest of these is a JD61m. scheme to produce chemical fertilisers from the phosphoric acid and fertiliser plant under construction at Aqaba. The scheme is being carried out by the Jordan Fertiliser Industry, established last year with a $63m. capital subscribed by the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company, the Government, IFC, Abu Dhabi's development fund and the U.S. Agrico—the contractor. It is hoped that by 1980 the plant will be earning exports of nearly $100m.

The other four priorities are expanding the Zarqa refinery capacity to 3.5m. tons at a cost of JD39m., development of a potash plant on the Dead Sea, expanding phosphate production and raising cement production capacity. The expansion of the refinery, fed by Saudi crude, will make Jordan self-sufficient in petroleum products as well as leaving a fair amount of surplus capacity—either against increasing future needs or for export. Last year's production was 760,000 tons. The potash project, considered for 10 years, is finally getting off the ground and will be an important addition to industrial production.

Investment of JD24m. in phosphate production, however, underlines the key role that phosphates will continue to play. Despite a decline last year in exports due to world market conditions, phosphates are still responsible for 37 per cent of export earnings. Most Plan estimates are conservative, but the authorities hope that by 1980 phosphate exports will be earnings over $300m. against last year's $70m.

This emphasis on major industrial projects should not minimise the importance of increasing small-scale industry, principally by the private sector. Estimates of JD35m., being invested over the five-year period would appear to be conservative on curernt form. Last year investment was JD6.5m. and this year the Ministry of Industry reckons it will reach JD10m., whereas JD7m. has been taken as a mean average for the whole period.

Dynamic

The private sector is also expected to play a dynamic role in the development of tourism. Almost 70 per cent. of the planned JD24.4m. investment in tourism will come from the private sector. The Ministry of Tourism itself has decided to concentrate on the development of the two major tourist attractions—Jerash and Petra—at a cost of $8m. (for which it is negotiating a World Bank loan). Most of the private sector investment will be devoted to hotel and resort construction. By 1980 tourism is expected to be earning $150m. a year, and the industry is being built up as one of the major pillars of the economy.

Agriculture also has a high priority. Investment has been raised steeply from the JD23m. devoted to agriculture and irrigation in the past three years to JD112m. in the new Plan. The lion's share is taken up by irrigation schemes, including the construction of the Maqarin Dam on the Yarmuk river—a project which has been long on the drawing boards. Construction of the Maqarin Dam and extending the East Ghor Canal will lay the basis for considerably improved agricultural output, which should increase by 7 per cent. per annum. In addition further efforts will be made to lessen dependence upon foodstuffs imports. In particular JD4.5m. will be spent on a dairy scheme (formerly the East Bank relied upon the West Bank for dairy products and recently has had to import them).

On the infrastructure side the principal expenditure is being devoted to improvements at Aqaba port and Amman airport. Aqaba was originally conceived as an export orientated port to handle phosphates. However, the opening of the Suez Canal, the troubles in Lebanon (Beirut handled 50 per cent. of Jordan imports) and the expansion of Jordan's own economy have put heavy pressure on Aqaba. It is now handling 75 ships a month, double the number of a year ago. It is also being used by Iraq for imports—as much as 600,000 tons this year. Given the expansion anticipated in phosphates, plus fertiliser exports, major improvements have become necessary and a total of JD42m. will be spent on new berths, loading and rail facilities. To accommodate growing use of Amman airport, and in an effort to offer an alterantive feeder point to Beirut for the Middle East, JD29m. is being invested in Amman airport. Elsewhere attention is being devoted to improving telecommunications and roads.

Manpower

What then are the main constraints on the fulfilments of this Plan? The principal one is probably manpower. Ironically Jordan has the necessary skilled, semi-skilled and unskilled labour. But precisely because it has them, they are in demand elsewhere because there is such a shortage in the Gulf. Last year one estimate by the Ministry of Industry was that 22,000 left for jobs outside Jordan with a return flow of less than 10 per cent. To compete Jordan has to offer increasingly high wages, which in turn pushes up the cost of projects. Inflationary pressures are a major unknown too. Already a number of feasibility studies have been made for major projects which are now out of date due to increased prices.

Because approximately 45 per cent. of total investment will be raised through foreign loans there is inevitably a question-mark over just how successful Jordan will be in doing this. The Jordanians themselves are confident that they can obtain the necessary funds abroad and certainly their net has been spread wide. To involve prospective foreign partners and aid givers more closely, an international conference is to be held in Jordan in May to discuss the plan. This conference, it is hoped, will create the necessary atmosphere of international understanding for Jordan's problems and its development aims.

R.G.

FIVE-YEAR PLAN INVESTMENT (1976-80)

	JDm.	Per cent.
ɔomic sectors	580.4	75.8
lining/manufacturing	229.1	29.9
Transportation	119.9	15.7
Agriculture/Irrigation	112.1	14.6
Electricity	42.8	5.6
Tourism/antiquities	24.4	3.2
Communications	23.0	3.0
Vater	25.3	3.3
'rade	3.8	0.5
al sectors	184.6	24.2
Iousing	86.0	11.3
Municipal/rural affairs	38.8	5.1
Education	34.6	4.6
Iealth	9.0	1.2
Labour/training	3.8	0.5
Other	12.4	1.5
and B	765.0	100.0

Phosphate wealth

A CURSORY look at Jordan's Five Year Development Plan makes it clear that the country's economic strategy will continue to be based upon the twin pillars of mining and manufacturing. The Plan anticipates this sector will absorb 30 per cent. of total investment, with an anticipated growth rate of 220 per cent. over the five-year period 1976-80. Jordan's phosphates are the country's biggest export earner ($65m. last year), and phosphate rock reserves are estimated at around 3bn. tons. So far only 15m. tons have been extracted.

During the sudden depression in the international fertiliser and phosphate market in the second part of last year, exports did dip significantly. But the drop in percentage terms was relatively smaller than that of other producers—Jordan's exports were 23 per cent. down, compared to 28 per cent. for Tunisia, 29 per cent. for Algeria and 30 per cent. for Morocco. Thus the record 1974 production of 1.67m. tons fell to 1.36m. tons.

Plans are underway to invest $75m. over the next five years to bring production up to 7m. tons per year with a projected annual income of $300m. by 1980. In 18 months' time production should reach the 5m.-ton mark. By this time it is anticipated that a new joint venture fertiliser plant at Aqaba being built by the U.S. concern Agrico—will come on stream and open up a new outlet for some of the phosphate rock. The U.K. Taylor Woodrow group has a £4.5m. contract in hand to design, supply and instal added phosphate rock beneficiation plants for the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company. Work is also underway to increase storage capacity at Aqaba port from the present 180,000 to 410,000 tons. Loading time will be cut virtually in half by the installation of new high-speed West German loaders. Total port expansion work for this purpose will cost $28m.

The reopening of the Suez Canal has strengthened Jordan's position in relation to its important East European markets, which account for 45 per cent. of sales. South and East Asian countries take up 36 per cent. and West Europe about 17 per cent. The remainder goes to Taiwan and India, who are both becoming larger buyers.

While phosphates will remain the key element in this sector, several other minerals loom as potential contributors to the nation's much needed finance. Oil exploration is going on under the aegis of Filon Corporation of the U.S., though few people are pinning their hopes on major finds. More feasible is the work already started to exploit potash deposits on the south-eastern shore and Lisan peninsular of the Dead Sea. Around $75m. is to be spent by 1980 on a scheme to process 1m. tons per year of potash recovered from brine and local rock deposits. The first stage of the scheme involves $10m.-worth of access roads and extensive dykes. The work is being supervised by the Dublin office of the U.S. company Jacobs Engineering, and financed partly by a $6m., 40-year loan from U.S. aid and $1m. from the World Bank.

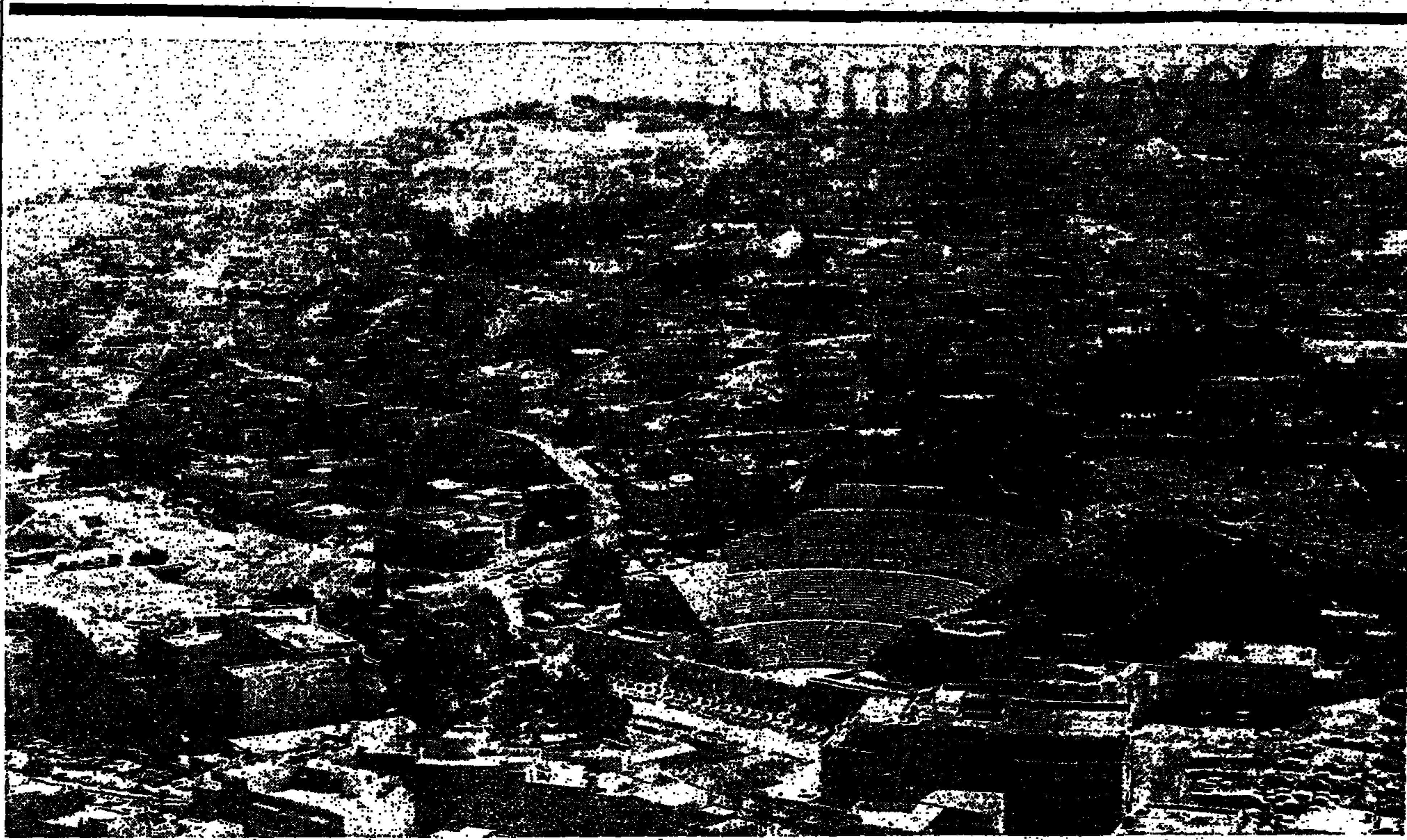
The State is also spending $15m. on a feasibility study of a copper industry in the southern Wadi Araba region. Two years ago it was estimated that this region contained 55m. tons of copper, while a Canadian expert more recently claimed that there was 65m. tons, permitting extraction at a rate of 10,000 to 15,000 tons per day. France's BRGM has been looking into both the extent of the deposits and the viability of a copper processing plant. Ponifica of Yugoslavia has also been doing mineral exploration in the same region.

Manganese ore is similarly believed to exist throughout the Wadi Araba area. But a far more profitable venture is in prospect. According to a top Government mining expert there are between 200,000 and 300,000 tons of uranium ore in Jordan, worth some $4bn. The uranium is mixed in with the country's substantial phosphate reserves, but can be extracted profitably where up to 300 grammes of uranium ore are found in one ton of raw phosphate rock. A Japanese geological team first reported last November that preliminary uranium finds had been made in the Dead Sea region of Ghor Al Safi. The same expert, Mr. Bassn Fakhoury, former director of Rusiefa and Hasa Phosphate Mines, maintains that the country may have reserves of some 1m. tons of vanadium—a soft ductile metallic chemical element that is often used in alloy formation. Vanadium is found in quantities of some 600 grammes per ton of phosphate.

In all, the State has allocated $30m., over the coming five years to carry out exploration for oil, copper and uranium, with most signs pointing to substantial new mineral wealth in a country that has always been regarded as mineral poor.

R.G.K.

JORDAN V



A view of Amman: "A pleasant, robust, dependable, well-located city."

Tourist potential

FIGURES released this month have confirmed the on-going tourism boom in Jordan and borne out the Government's decision to treat tourism as one of the country's four top "productive" sectors.

Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities returns show that 707,622 tourists came to Jordan in 1975, a big jump on the 555,000 of the previous year. The total is also something of a psychological and symbolic landmark as this is the first time that visitors to Jordan have outnumbered the 616,000 who came in 1966, when Jordan's growing tourism business was built on the strong attraction of Jerusalem, Bethlehem and the West Bank holy places.

Equally important to Jordan, the tourists of 1975 generated revenues of about $70m., a sign to both the public and private sectors that the State's efforts to stimulate investment in tourism are likely to prove rewarding.

The healthy and expanding state of tourism in Jordan has come after two somewhat belated realisations—that the East Bank of the country has a rich enough combination of historic sites, good weather, sea spots and natural splendour to attract tourists on its own; and that continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank does not wipe out entirely the touristic pull of its many sites.

The boom in tourism has been no fluke, of course. It simply reflects the vast potential of Jordan's varied and rich attractions, including most notably the rock-cut, mountain-enclosed ancient Nabataean capital of Petra; the restored Graeco-Roman city of Jerash; year-round sun-sand-and-sea pleasures at Aqaba and the Dead Sea; a fine collection of easily accessible Crusader castles and predominantly Ommayyad Arab desert fortresses, hunting lodges and castles that dot the length and breadth of the country; and some spectacular desert scenery topped by the moonscape-like natural extravaganza of Wadi Rum, also notable as the scene of many of Lawrence of Arabia's historic exploits.

Jordan moved to develop its East Bank tourist sites only after the loss of Jerusalem and the West Bank in 1967. The overwhelming constraint then and now on the business has been a lack of adequate hotel accommodation.

Frantic efforts are now underway to increase capacity, but it will be another two or three years before the combination of hotels, motels, tourist villages and Government rest homes reaches the point where Jordan could claim to be able to comfortably accommodate the 1m. tourists a year it expects to welcome by 1980.

If things keep going as they have during the past four years — during which the 275,000 visitors in 1972 became 707,000 in 1975 — Jordan will likely attract much more than 1m. tourists by that date.

Augmented

By then, the 2,500 beds in classified hotels in 1975 should be augmented to about 10,000. An added bit of pressure on the hotels has been the influx of Lebanese and foreigners from war-torn Lebanon — most of whom take up hotel space for anything from a week to several months — as well as the increase in business people, who are coming into Jordan at a much higher rate than ever before.

The State's response has been to encourage private investment in tourism, and it often steps in itself, either through the State airline Alia or the Jordan Hotels and Rest House Company, to take a varying minority or majority share in new ventures.

The 220-bed Holiday Inn that opened in Aqaba last month has helped things there, but there will likely remain strong pressure on hotel accommodation in Amman until the new 440-bed Holiday Inn and 300-bed Sheraton are completed within two years, and until the Jordan International and Grand Palace Hotels complete their expansion plans.

The State has also paved the way, with tax holidays and its investment incentive law, for a strong dose of foreign capital in the tourist accommodation business. Among the foreign companies planning or going ahead with schemes are Holiday Inn, Sheraton, Novotel, Sofitel, Meridien, Connaissance du Monde (tourist villages), Hyatt House and several Scandinavian companies.

A novel plan is being finalised whereby a Scandinavian firm would largely finance, build and manage a hotel project and, through a tour-operating affiliate, guarantee to fill up over half the hotel's capacity. The Tourism Ministry is keen to discuss such schemes where foreign interests include a marketing component in their undertaking.

Jordan has four basic attractions: archeological sites, thermal water spas, astounding desert tourism, and some marvelous sea-and-sand combinations at Aqaba and the Dead Sea for the hard-core hedonists. The natural hospitality and courtesy of the Jordanian people, much sun, and a general easy-going atmosphere are the backdrop to the visitor's stay in the country.

Efforts are now keyed to develop a ten-kilometre stretch of beach tourist facilities at Aqaba, and to upgrade services and accommodations at the Dead Sea and the nearby Zarqa Ma'in hot springs. The vast potential desert tourism is only beginning to be tapped.

Jordanian tourist offices and travel agents offer package tours that include three- or four-day trips to the West Bank as well as jaunts of varying length and intensity throughout the East Bank region. Jerusalem and the Holy places are the main magnets for Western tourists.

Alia ran a series of charter flights from the U.S. last year, and has been encouraged by the good responses to make the service available once again. Another twist in the international marketing strategy is to hook up with the Syrian tourism authorities and sell both countries as one unit.

The two State airliners are already seeking to operate joint routes to North and South America, and the added step of offering comprehensive package tours is under consideration. This would be facilitated on the home front by long-standing but yet to be implemented plans to run Aleppo-Damascus-Amman-Aqaba air routes. Plans to market Lebanon, Syria and Jordan as a single touristic unit called "Medittarabia" have been shelved for the moment because of the Lebanese war.

Treasures

Alia in particular has an eye on what it calls the "ethnic market" of Arabs in the Americas who are interested in package tours and charter flights to the Middle East, as well as the big market of Christian tourists who can be offered the treasures of the Holy Land in the West Bank via a few days' vacation in Jordan.

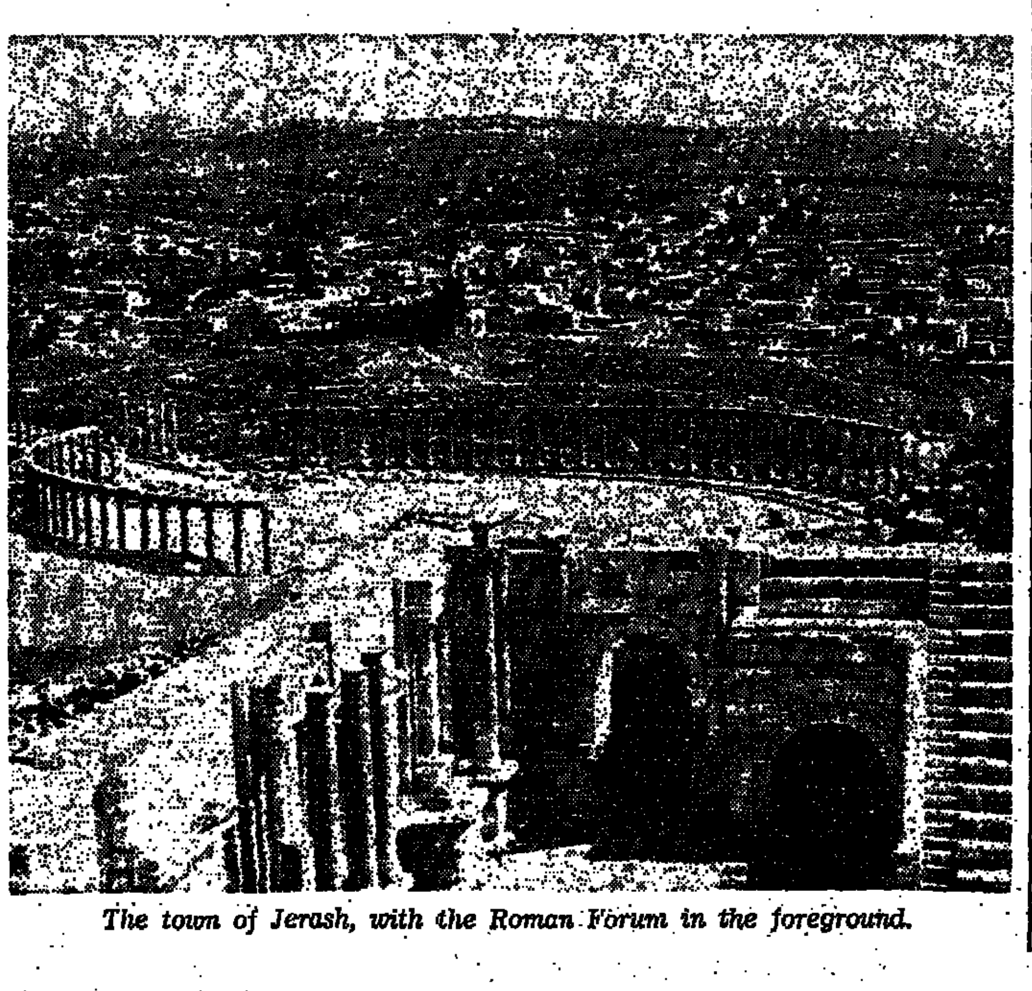
While over 60 per cent of the 707,000 tourists of 1975 were Arab nationals—many of them Moslem pilgrims passing through Jordan en route to Saudi Arabia—there has been a sharp increase from 1974 in visitors from Europe and North America (up from 29,500 to 44,200, and from 21,000 to 31,900 respectively).

The 1976-1980 five-year development plan in Jordan envisages $74m. in inves[tment in the] tourism sector, [of which more] than $50m. is to [come from the] private sector.

One of the [con]straints on con[tinued growth] may be a lack [of trained per]sonnel, particula[rly in] hotel facilities. [This is] to be taken car[e of by the] State's new tou[rism] training centre [...] tional within a [...] by the reliance [...] agerial personne[l ...] schemes.

The past ten [...] have proved th[at Jordan] has a tremendo[us ...] attract and satis[fy ...] that it as yet lac[ks a] total infrastructu[re ...] cated marketing [...] take full adva[ntage of ...] nature and hist[ory ...] it.

Both intereste[d ...] potential visito[rs ...] solace from the [...] planning will [...] however much th[e busi]ness grows, it [...] harmony with th[e ...] courtesy and grac[e ...] end, probably the [...] attraction of the [...]



The town of Jerash, with the Roman Forum in the foreground.

The Executive's World

EDITED BY JOHN ELLIOTT

The tanker surplus is making bankers look into shipping management. **By John Wyles**

Shipowners open up their books

AS A BREED, bankers are not famed for their use of rhetoric, so when they lace their speeches with talk of "time bombs" and "potentially explosive" situations, it may be taken for granted that a problem is becoming acute. This strong language is currently a prominent feature of discussion on shipping finance and reflects the growing anxiety on the possible scale of banking losses which could result from the world tanker surplus.

Knowing that they have burned their fingers on tanker financing, but still not sure how badly, banks are now trying to impose a much greater measure of financial discipline on shipping company managements than ever before. This is a great contrast to the easy money days of 1972-73 when huge loans were available to companies, often for rather dubious security, to finance a large volume of tanker tonnage which possibly 100m. deadweight ...s more than the world needs. At the moment, about 560 oil ...kers are laid up, most at a ... of several thousand dollars ...ay and most representing a ...y debt burden for their ...ers. In addition, a large ...rtion of the tankers still ...ng are not attracting high ...gh rates to cover their ...ers' operating costs and debt ...ayments.

The International Association ... Independent Tanker Owners ...s claimed that as much as ...5bn. (£8bn.) is at risk unless ...nker supply and demand are ...ought back into balance. This ...tal reflects Government as well as the banks' exposure, but so dire is the prospect that bankers are now trying to learn some lessons from a crisis described last month by Mr. Michael Revell, vice-president of New York-based Marine Midland Bank, as akin "to sitting on a time bomb with the fuse beginning to burn at an ever-increasing rate."

The fear haunting international bankers is that the trickle of shipowners who are defaulting on their tanker debts will turn into a flood as the effects of the surplus bite deeper into the shipping industry's finances. In many cases creditor banks face the stark alternatives of either forcing a bankruptcy or allowing an owner in difficulties to reschedule his debts in the hope that the crisis will ease.

Already this year, the Greek Colocotronis Group has been allowed to renegotiate some $320m. (£172m.) of debt, and Maritime Fruit Carriers appears likely to be granted at least a moratorium on repayments of interest and principal, after defaulting on its debts. These and other cases of unpublicised debt rescheduling agreements underline the fact that banks are loth to see an owner go under when there is still a chance of saving some of their investments.

But shipping managements are being warned not to take bankers' willingness to help for granted. In particular, banks want to avoid being "put on the spot" by owners who can no longer meet their commitments and whose creditors are pressing. In the absence of any kind of formal "early warning" system, banks are urging their clients who see trouble ahead to consult with them as soon as possible.

But banks with shipping creditors are now starting to take initiatives themselves and to demand a flow of financial information, not only from owners seeking to finance new buildings, but also from those with large loans outstanding.

Realising that investment on a single ship can be jeopardised if an owner's total business is unsound, banks are looking for comprehensive information covering fleet employment and financing, a vessel-by-vessel breakdown of operating costs, fleet insurance details, guarantees given to third parties, cash flow projection and details of financing and employment of vessels on order.

This is an uncomfortable experience for many shipowners whose success has often sprung from not letting the left hand know what the right hand is doing. But as far as the banks are concerned, tightening up the old rules and writing a few new ones should at least provide a stable future once the effects of the current crisis have disappeared.

Stranded through shortage of orders, four super-tankers lie idle on the Norwegian coast.

Despite the evidence that a number of shipowners are in financial difficulties because of their tanker commitments, few banks have decided so far to write off their shipping losses. Explaining this in a speech to a conference in London, Mr. Revell indicated that banks are still hoping that the tanker industry and Governments will take steps to reduce the tanker surplus.

Outlining some of the considerations influencing the banks, Mr. Revell claimed that at least $35bn. (£18.8bn.) mortgage debt is still outstanding against tankers whose attributed value at the time the debts were incurred was probably in the region of $50bn. (£26.8bn.). But the 50 per cent. slump in tanker prices over the past 18 months means that the $35bn. debt is secured by only $25bn. (£13.4bn.) of value.

Even if a bank is willing to contemplate a large loss on a vessel or several vessels, it is likely to be deterred from forcing the situation by the sheer complexity of dealing with a shipping bankruptcy. If it were simply a matter of taking possession of a ship and then trying to sell it, several banks would by now have set up their stalls. They have not done so partly because of the tangle of legal considerations which govern the situation.

From the start, a bank's freedom of action may be limited by other mortgagees who might have a claim on the vessel. In addition a bankrupt owner will almost certainly have run up large debts associated with the running of the ship and the bank could be liable for these. The end result would mean that the bank would be burdened with secondary claims, administrative and legal costs, and a vessel whose market values may not be enough to cover the mortgage debt and whose resale prospects are, in any case, dim.

"The whole exercise is not one that should be embarked upon lightly," said Mr. Revell. "Surely if there is a possibility of a bank salvaging a situation, all avenues should be explored to this end—the other alternative is disastrous."

As they try to steer between shipping bankruptcies and supplying too many "easy terms" rescue deals on request, bankers are debating the measure of responsibility they must bear for the present tanker surplus and to devise new ground rules for the future.

The most popular analysis divides the banking world into "good guys" and "bad guys." The "good guys," who are banks with a long experience and tradition in ship finance, came under increasing pressure in 1972 and 1973 to set aside traditional cautions in order to meet fierce competition from a number of "bad guys" who were flush with money and wanted to cash in on "floating real estate."

According to the more formal account given to the same London conference by Mr. A. Shapiro, managing director of Gatx Ship Leasing and Mortgage (U.K.): "The entry of many banks into the Eurocurrency lending business, which appeared both secure and profitable, contributed to creating a highly competitive market with numerous business development officers knocking on the doors of shipowners who previously were not considered creditworthy."

By the time the bubble was burst with the OPEC oil price rises in late 1973, few banks with shipping portfolios had not at least stretched a principle or two. Too many financed thoroughly speculative deals for tankers which would take to the seas without firm charters and therefore without guaranteed income.

While wanting to look beyond the current tanker crisis, the shipping industry is aware that the worst is yet to come. This points to a stormy year ahead, not only for banks and shipowners but also for Governments and the world shipbuilding industry, which has been grievously stripped of work and operating capital by tanker cancellations.

BUSINESS LAW

Legal rights and the trespasser

BY A. H. HERMANN

THERE IS considerable uncertainty about the responsibility which owners or occupiers have for the safety of people who enter their premises. Private housing estates, hotels, offices, factories and even vehicles, ships and aircraft are all vulnerable to being entered by people who have no lawful business. The problem also concerns the safety of children in search of playgrounds in densely populated areas.

Another legal muddle has arisen over how criminal law is applied to squatters. It seems that it is one thing if they move into a home while the occupants are temporarily away but quite another if homeless people camp in empty residential or office property. The law, however, does not really distinguish between the two situations.

The Law Commission, whose task it is to prepare law reform in areas staked out by the Government, has attempted to unravel these problems and to find solutions in two reports published last month.

The popular belief that people who trespass do so at their own risk is only partly true. This is because the occupier must care for the safety of trespassers and "take such steps as common sense or common humanity would dictate," taking account of his "financial and other limitations."

These are the common law duties of the occupier and have been established by judicial decisions since 1972 when, in the "Herrington" case, the House of Lords held the British Railways Board liable for injury suffered by a boy who gained access to an electric railway line through a dilapidated fence. The Law Commission has now proposed that these rather vague common law rules should be replaced by more precise statutory provisions.

For this purpose the Law Commission has drafted a new "Occupiers' Liability Bill" which would make the occupier responsible for the personal safety of the innocent but uninvited entrant. But he would not be responsible for damage done to his property.

He would therefore be required to take steps to protect the trespasser from injury or death which could for example result from the state of the premises or other structures or vehicles. But he would bear this responsibility only "in circumstances in which he can be reasonably expected" to offer the trespasser some protection, for example when a danger to children could be foreseen. Similarly notices aimed at excluding or restricting the liability of the owner could be held to be unfair or unreasonable if they went too far.

The Law Commission's proposals still leave a large degree of uncertainty. The "fair and reasonable" phrase chosen by the Commission is not greatly different from the "reasonable and humane" action which was demanded by the Law Lords in the Herrington case. But the Commission offers some explanations. While under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 one must warn visitors if a step on the stairs of a property—office, hotel or house, for example—is missing, it would be unreasonable, according to the Commission, to expect one to offer any protection for this danger to a burglar at night. On the other hand it would be reasonable to expect that one would take care of the safety of a child, or anyone entering the premises by mistake or accident.

The other set of problems vexing both public and private owners of unoccupied residential and office property concerns not the innocent entrant

> Changing social and other attitudes have altered the case law on the rights of entry and occupation of property. Now the Law Commission has proposed ideas for new legislation

but the uninvited guests who come to stay, the resident trespasser, the squatter. A close look at the law reveals that the feeling of helplessness over the squatter is mainly due to a politically inspired reluctance to use the law against them. It is not that there is no law.

It is also widely assumed that it is an offence to use force to expel a trespasser. This applies however only to a trespasser who gained possession by the inaction of the owner. In the interest of preserving the peace, however, the Law Commission has recommended that this right of self-help should in the future be restricted to such an extent that it would be useless in most of the known cases of squatting.

It is also wrong to assume that the trespasser can be dealt with only by civil proceedings and does not fall under the provisions of criminal law. Under the ancient statutes of forcible entry he is liable under criminal law as soon as he uses or threatens to use force in order to enter or remain on a property. Moreover, there is a controversial use of a conspiracy charge, now defined by the House of Lords 1974 decision in *Kamara v. D.P.P.*, a case concerning the occupation of the Sierra Leone High Commission in London by a dozen of Sierra Leone students seeking publicity for their grievances. According to this decision an indictable conspiracy to trespass is committed if two or more persons combine with the intention of inflicting more than purely nominal damage on a property—for example, where they expel the owner. The Law Commission has concluded, however, that neither the statutes of forcible entry, dating back to 1381, nor the use of the conspiracy charge, are adequate to present-day social conditions and it has recommended that the offences of forcible entry and conspiracy to trespass should be abolished.

The changes proposed by the Law Commission would improve the position of the owner-occupier of a house or a flat but would substantially weaken the legal position of other commercial owners of residential and industrial property.

According to the recommendations, it should be an offence not to leave residential premises when ordered to do so by the displaced resident. The displaced resident should also be free to use or threaten violence to secure entry. But the owner of industrial property, or of rented or leased residential property, would be placed on the same footing with the squatter: it would be an offence for either of them to use or threaten violence to secure entry against the will of a person present on the premises, be it the owner or the trespasser.

The Law Commission makes it also clear that the term "violence" means more than "force." Forcing a lock with a piece of plastic, or a window catch with a thin piece of metal would not amount to violence, but the splintering of a door or of a window frame would. The three subsidiary offences proposed by the Law Commission concern the possession of offensive weapons by the trespasser, the occupation of diplomatic missions, and resisting or obstructing any sheriff's officer or officer of the county court, seeking to execute an order for possession against trespassers. Of these three, only the last would marginally improve the present position of the occupier or owner. The recommendations are not concerned with civil proceedings which owners or occupiers can take against squatters and other trespassers.

Report on Liability for Damage or Injury to Trespassers and related Questions of Occupiers' Liability, Law Commission No. 75 SO. 65p.

Criminal Law—Report on Conspiracy and Criminal Law Reform, Law Commission No. 76, SO. £2.45.

Railways Board v. Herrington (1972) A.C. 877

Kamara v. D.P.P. (1974) A.C. 104.

BUSINESS PROBLEMS — BY OUR LEGAL STAFF

Capital gain by a club

A club of which I am a member has recently sold the lease of its premises for a substantial gain. Is it correct that for tax purposes the club would be treated as a joint venture with members and any gain apportioned among them? Would the gain be calculated on a time apportionment basis? In the event of the club's dissolution would the proceeds of any balance of assets be tax free in members' hands, apart from possible C.G.T.?

The answer to your second question is probably no. The chargeable gain is likely to be calculated by reference to the value of the leasehold interest on April 6, 1965; this basis of calculation may be mandatory (for example, if the proceeds exceed the current use value) but, even if it is optional, an election under paragraph 25 of Schedule 6 to the Finance Act 1965 (on form CG21) is likely to be more beneficial than the time-apportionment basis under paragraph 24.

The answers to your other questions depend on the club's constitution. It may well be chargeable to corporation tax like a company, for the definition of "company" in Section 526 (5) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1970 includes an unincorporated association (other than a local authority association).

Non-resident company

While section 482 of the Taxes Act 1970 seeks inter alia to prevent a U.K. company from transferring the benefits of its trade to a non-resident company without Treasury consent, what can the Treasury do where, say, the three shareholder/directors of a U.K. company decide to emigrate?

The residential status of a company for U.K. tax purposes is not altered by a mere alteration in the residential status of its shareholders and directors, although such a change will have certain consequences for the purposes of U.K. exchange control. The factors which determine a company's tax residence are discussed in most of the standard works on corporation tax, but you will have noticed that subsection 7 imports special deeming provisions for the purposes of section 482.

Whether any act or series of acts amounts to or results in something which is unlawful under subsection 1 (b), for example, is a question of fact for decision by the Court in any particular case. In giving advice to the directors of a U.K. resident company, doubtless you will consider your own position under subsections 5 and 6, inter alia.

Possession of a caravan

Fearing the effect of the Mobile Homes Act 1975 I gave a tenant of a caravan on a licensed site notice to quit on March 1, 1975. He refuses to go and has paid no rent since then. How can I get him out?

The Mobile Homes Act 1975 does not restrict your right to recover possession of a caravan where the contract of letting was determined before that Act was passed. You can recover possession in the usual way by proceedings in the County Court.

*

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Head Office Editorial & Advertisement Offices:
BRACKEN HOUSE, CANNON STREET, LONDON EC4P 4BY
Telephone Day & Night: 01-248 8000. Telegrams: Finantimo, London
Telex: 886341/2, 883897
For Share Index and Business News Summary Ring: 01-246 8026

Birmingham: George House, George Road 021-454 0922
Dublin: 8 Fitzwilliam Sq. 785321
Edinburgh: 18 Hanover St. .. 031-226 4120
Leeds: Permanent House, The Headrow 0532 454969
Manchester: Queens House, Queen St. 061-834 9381
Paris: 36 Rue du Sentier 236.86.99 (editorial) 236.86.01 (business)
Bonn: Pressehaus 11/104 Heussallee 2-10 221596
Frankfurt: Frankfurt am Main, Im Sachsenlager 13 555730 (editorial) 554667 (business)
Brussels: 39 Rue Ducale 129037
Rome: Via della Mercede 55 .... 678 3314
Stockholm: Raalambsvagen 7. 105 17 Stockholm. Tel: 50 60 88
New York: 75 Rockefeller Plaza, NY 10019 Editorial—212 541 4625 Business—212 489 8300
Washington: Second Floor, 1325, E. Street, N.W., Washington D.C. 202 347 8676
Jo'burg: 637 Union Centre East corner: Pritchard and Harrison Streets, P.O. Box 2128
Tokyo: 8th Floor, Nihon Keizai Shimbun Building, 1-9-5 Otemachi, Chiyoda-ku. Tel: 241 2920

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 21, 1976

The strains on the CAP

SINCE ITS inception nearly 15 years ago, the European Community's agricultural policy has attracted more controversy, and has taken up more Ministerial time, than all the rest of the Community's activities put together. Its proponents have at times gone so far as to claim that the common agricultural policy is the Community's most remarkable achievement; its detractors have argued that it was misconceived from the beginning, a burden with few redeeming features.

On both sides the claims have certainly been overstated. The establishment of the ground rules of the CAP was certainly felt by the Six to be a major political achievement: these rules were at variance with Britain's interests, but they were seen by the then members as an important contribution to European integration. The practical shortcomings of the policy—its cost and the accumulation of surpluses—have long been obvious; but the 1973 commodity boom, when world food prices rose in some cases well above Community levels, revealed previously unsuspected advantages.

Exchange rates

The trouble with the CAP is that it is based on the presumption that exchange rates within the Community remain at least comparatively stable. In the middle 60s, indeed, there were those who believed that common farm prices would force the member states to move to monetary union. The reverse has proved to be the case. The underlying divergence in the national economies of the member states has rendered remote, if not actually illusory, the prospect of monetary unification, and the common agricultural policy has only managed to sustain the fiction of common prices by border taxes and subsidies which do little to conceal the true state of affairs.

In the short run, Britain and Italy benefit from the artifices of the CAP, in the sense that the Monetary Compensation Amounts enable them to import food from the rest of the Community at a lower price than would be possible if true exchange rates were used. In the short run, no doubt, Britain can resist the arguments of the Commission that the so-called "green pound" should be devalued in line with the real sterling exchange rate: from the point of view of the government's anti-inflation policy, the artificiality of the "green pound" is some consolation for the decline in the normal exchange rate.

But it is difficult to disregard the possibility that the common agricultural policy may be brought down by the weight of its own contradictions, by its cost and inefficiency, and by the conflict between the national interests of the member states.

Disintegration is not an immediate probability. The member States have invested too much political capital in the policy for that, and most of them remain vulnerable to pressures from their farm lobbies. But the West German Government is increasingly impatient with a policy which involves it in the payment of substantial subsidies to other member States, and consumers in inflation-ridden countries like Britain should be impatient with a pricing system which provides unnecessary subsidies to efficient farmers, while still leaving the marginal producer without an adequate income.

Consumers

In the long run the common agricultural policy is only likely to survive if it satisfies two basic criteria. It must establish a much fairer balance between the interests of the consumers and those of the producers; and it must establish much more effective controls over production and consequent financial costs. Both these criteria should mean farm prices matched to the production costs on the most efficient farms, while the savings to the consumer and the taxpayer should be more than enough to provide income support for the small man. For a time Britain and Italy can take advantage of uncovenanted subsidies through the mechanism of the "green pound" and "green lira;" for a time Bonn will continue to pay these uncovenanted subsidies. But it would be wishful thinking to suppose that the policy can survive indefinitely without some fundamental reform.

Bank charges and inflation

THE CUSTOMERS of Barclays Bank may be annoyed but should not be surprised by the news that the Price Commission has approved its application to increase charges on business and personal accounts. Since business charges are settled by individual negotiation rather than fixed tariff, there is no firm estimate at present of how much these may rise. For personal customers, the size of current account qualifying for exemption from charges will be raised from £100 average or £50 minimum to £200 average or £100 minimum, and the charge per transaction on the accounts of those not qualifying for exemption will be raised from 7p to 10p (less a 5 per cent. allowance on the average credit balance over the year). The bank estimates that 70 per cent. of its personal customers pay no charges at present and that this will remain true for 60 per cent. under the new scale, even if balances are not raised to qualify for exemption.

The other three of the Big Four clearing banks also operate tariffs of charges for personal accounts, although these differ between themselves. They are not immediately proposing to follow Barclays' lead—they may well prefer to see what impact it has on customers—but they face similar problems and may well be obliged sooner or later to move in the same direction.

Rising costs

The main problem for all four, of course, is the steady rise in costs — those of Barclays have doubled in three years and are expected to rise by 20 per cent. in 1976. It would have been possible, and conceivably more popular, to have passed the whole increase in costs on to business customers. But it is small private accounts which cost the most to service, and at a time when even the nationalised industries are being expected to bring prices into line with costs, cross-subsidisation of this kind would have served no economically useful purpose. It would have been possible, again, to hold charges down and raise interest rates to borrowers; but this, apart from being open to a similar charge of pointless cross-subsidisation, would have involved much wider issues of monetary policy.

The most common complaint, no doubt, will be that the banks have been making profits on a scale which should enable them to absorb cost increases even as large as those they have recently experienced. But the basic fact is that the soundness of all financial institutions rests on the preservation of a prudent level of reserves to assets, and that this is particularly difficult to achieve in a period of rapid inflation. Last year, as Barclays points out, its deposits rose by £2bn., yet it was able to increase its reserves out of retained profits by only £41m. Whatever other means of increasing the capital base are used, an adequate level of retained profits is essential.

Competition

This rise in charges to some personal borrowers reverses the trend of 1973/74, when reductions were the order of the day. Perhaps the most important feature of the latest move, however, is that a fixed and open tariff of charges is being retained, by Barclays as by the other clearers. Large business customers have always been able to take advantage of competition for business between the banks. Personal customers will now still be able to compare different tariffs between the banks and switch their accounts if they find it worthwhile. Unless they do so, in fact, they cannot fairly argue that competition for business between the Big Four is, so far as small personal accounts are concerned, ineffective.

Brazil's foreign debt position is giving cause for concern. Mary Campbell reports

The big query over Brazil's status as a borrower

"WE wish to inform you that in spite of the prevailing difficulties in the Euroloan markets for such operations, the top priority project of Aeroportos do Rio do Janeiro deserved a favourable response from world financial centres, and the loan over-subscription proved once again Brazil's high credit-worthiness. As a consequence the borrower, the guarantor and the managers have agreed to increase the loan from the original figure of $U.S.100m. to $U.S.120m."

That was how the Banco do Brasil described Brazil's latest big foreign financing in a letter inviting journalists to attend the signing ceremony for the loan. The general phraseology, and in particular the emphasis placed on the success of the operation, is indicative of the country's nervousness about its image among foreign creditors and of the extent to which it cares about continuing to tap banks abroad for further funds. Brazil's previous major borrowing—$300m. for the State of São Paulo—had not been well received by foreign bankers; the success of the airport loan had to be got across in the Press.

Private debt

A cursory glance at the growth of Brazil's foreign debt in recent years would be enough to alarm any banker. Gross debt grew from $3bn. to $22bn. between end-1968 and end-1975 It grew by about $5bn. last year alone and by about $10bn. in the last three years. Net of foreign exchange reserves it rose from $3bn. at end-1968 to $18bn. at the end of last year.

Brazil naturally, and indeed with justification, goes to great lengths to show that the crude figures set out above do not fully represent the country's external financial position. Though not precisely relevant to the discussion which follows, it should be noted, for example, that Brazilian records of its foreign debt are considerably more comprehensive than those of most other countries insofar as private sector debt is included. This is of considerable importance when making international comparisons.

The substance of the Brazilian argument is that Brazil is in a much better position to service its foreign debt now than in either the late 1960s or the early 1970s. The argument was put cogently by Sr. Paulo Lira, the President of the Brazilian Central Bank, in a speech last month at a conference in Rio de Janeiro sponsored by the Financial Times, Varig Brazilian Airlines and the Investors' Chronicle. Sr. Lira used three main sets of statistics to prove his point.

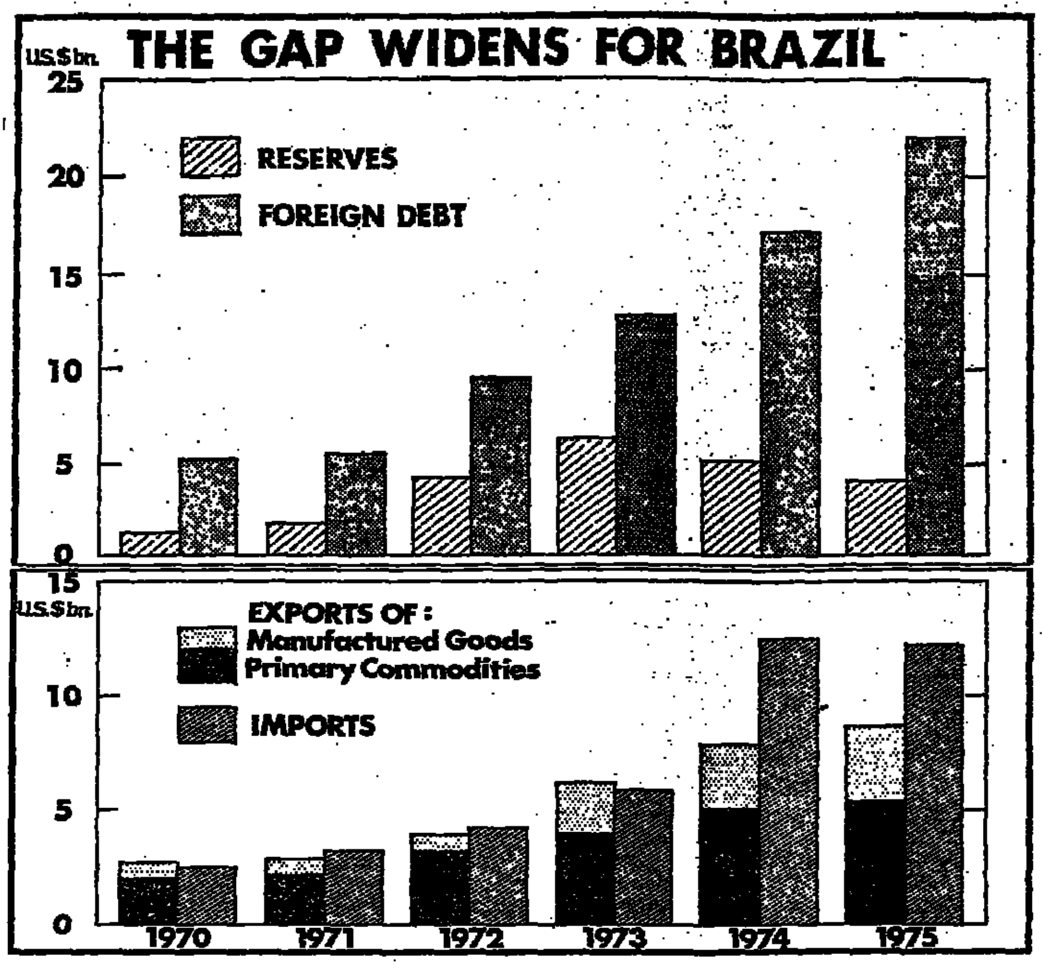
In the first place he pointed out that debt service represented a much smaller proportion of exports in 1975 than in any year from 1968 to 1972 inclusive. In 1968 it was 60 per cent. and in 1969 63 per cent. In 1975, however, it was 17 per cent., a very big improvement.

Second he showed that in late 1975 repayment dates for Brazil's external debt were much less bunched together than earlier. In December, 1969, 13 per cent. of Brazil's total foreign debt was due to be repaid the following year; in September 1975 only 3 per cent. In December, 1969, 59 per cent. of total debt was due to be repaid within five years; in September, 1975, 54 per cent.

A final set of statistics showed that the ratio of foreign capital inflows to debt service had also improved. In 1968 debt service amounted to 68 per cent. of capital inflows; in 1975 to 51 per cent.

The problem with Sr. Lira's figuring is very simple: it stops at the end of 1975. And such information as is available both from within and outside Brazil suggests that the situation is deteriorating.

Sr. Lira's figures show that Brazil is repaying $535m. worth of maturing foreign currency debt in the year which ends next September. In the following year—September 1976 to September 1977—the figure will be over four times as large, amounting to $2.26bn. Interest payments may be expected to add about $2.5bn. to this (interest payments amounted to $1.9bn. in calendar 1975 and Brazil's outstanding foreign debt is likely, by next September, to be some $7-$10bn. higher than the $16.7bn. of December 1974).



Interest payments

This would bring overall debt service requirements during the year starting next September to close on $5bn. In 1974 and 1975 new medium and long-term foreign currency loans to Brazil amounted to about $7bn. On the not unreasonable assumption that they will be about the same in the year starting next September, debt servicing will amount to 72 per cent. of inflows in that year, a substantial deterioration from the 51 per cent. for the year to end-1975.

Moreover, on the two assumptions that Brazil does not change its policy of running a deficit on goods and services account and that capital inflows continue to run at the rate of approximately $7bn. per annum, the ratio will deteriorate still further during the rest of the 1970s. Amortisation of debt already contracted by last September will amount to between $2.5bn. and $2.7bn. in each 12-month period up to end-September between 1977 and 1980, according to Sr. Lira's figures. Interest payments would increase insofar as Brazil borrows more each year than it repays.

This prospect goes far to explain the importance which Brazil attaches to maintaining its capacity to borrow abroad and the severity of the measures introduced in recent months to cut the country's deficit on its non-financial current account.

Indeed if the $5bn. debt servicing figure proves to be more or less correct for the year starting next September, then either the current account deficit will have to be pruned right back or the volume of long term capital inflows must increase.

It is by no means impossible that capital inflows into Brazil will increase in the next few years; but the indications are that any such increase is likely to be matched by increased imports of goods and services of a kind which will not yield Brazil increased foreign currency earnings (or savings in foreign currency expenditure) for some years to come. The new policy for oil exploration under which non-Brazilian companies are allowed to become involved in exploration will undoubtedly lead to big gross inflows of foreign currency funds; but the vast majority of these funds will be used to pay for imported equipment. In the long term the flows of oil which will result from these explorations will cut big chunks from Brazil's import bill; but, as Britain in particular has learned, these dividends do not come in overnight.

On the other hand it is equally possible that capital inflows could slow down, and there is a strong likelihood that one major source of foreign currency funds at least may prove less prolific in the future. Brazil has been one of the largest borrowers on the syndicated loans sector of the Euromarkets, raising medium- and long-term loans running into billions of dollars from foreign commercial banks in each of the last few years. Now however the undertone of the Euromarket suggests that at the least it will not increase its annual lending to Brazil.

Financing deficits

The reasons for this have frequently been well-rehearsed.

Until now, the banks have surprised even themselves by continuing to lend to countries like Brazil on almost the same scale as in the boom years of 1973-74. But the feeling that Euromarket lending cannot go on growing and may even have to slacken off gets more persistent every month. The prudence which bankers now advocate to countries like Brazil was expressed quite unequivocally by Mr. James Greene of Manufacturers Hanover Trust at the conference in Rio last month: "It is unwise to expect or assume," he said, "that the international banking community can or should continue to assume the major burden of the financing of less-developed countries' balance of payments' deficits. . . . We are adding to our exposure in those countries only reluctantly and selectively."

The prospects for a reduction of Brazil's current account deficit are much more difficult to fathom. Some big import substitution programmes, such as steel, are already coming on stream. But the oil import bill is high—$3bn. last year—and despite increased domestic production, further OPEC price rises would have a big adverse impact for several years to come. A lot also clearly depends on the extent of the economic revival in the industrialised world: despite its great strides towards industrialisation, Brazil still depends on primary products for over 60 per cent. of its exports.

But the crux is that Brazil's trade balance could only really be put back into surplus in the short term by sacrificing (or at least postponing) the very programmes on which its long-term capacity to repay its large foreign debt depends.

During the last two years, since the oil price rises, Brazil's visible trade deficit has been $4.7bn. and $3.5bn. respectively, while the current account deficit (goods and services, but excluding financial transfers) has been $6.2bn. and $5.0bn. In the first quarter of this year alone the trade deficit is thought to have amounted to some $700m.; the Bra[...] for the year as a [...] $1bn., bringing [...] rent account def[...] financial transfe[...] $2.5bn.

The deficits o[...] years were fina[...] term borrowing [...] the importance o[...] gin between ove[...] flow and the [...] requirement. Bu[...] and 1975, the [...] proved insufficie[...] the debt service [...] account deficit a[...] dip into its fo[...] reserves to the [...] and $1.4bn. resp[...]

Clearly, the [...] ment currently [...] should ultimatel[...] of payments div[...] longer term—[...] political upheav[...] assumes that Br[...] good." It is th[...] country in th[...] boundless nat[...] which are eve[...] tially uncharted [...] though growing [...] double that of t[...] of the few co[...] world, whether [...] industrialised, [...] to welcome for[...] with open arm[...] should do mor[...] else to ensure t[...] continue to hav[...] 1968 it had f[...] reserves repre[...] cent. of the pr[...] ports; at end 19[...] 31 per cent.

Ava[...] fu[...]

On the oth[...] massive invest[...] per cent. ju[...] between 1968 [...] has not run a [...] surplus in any [...] 1968. And, [...] have increased [...] the foreign del[...] currency reser[...] more—by 470 [...] early 1970s st[...] in the availab[...] currency funds [...] Brazil; such a [...] not be seen ag[...] one can expec[...] continue to be [...] level which ha[...] reached. It [...] amount of fa[...] reserves stood [...] end of last yea[...] touched its IM[...] far too little f[...]

The question [...] whether it can [...] substitution an[...] investment p[...] stream before [...] ing burden be[...] to carry; its co[...] that many othe[...] worse problem[...] more immediat[...]

MEN AND MATTERS

New military honours

The British Army has been forced to take a parsimonious attitude to artillery lately. Salisbury Plain target practice has been made cheaper by using a Swedish-built computer to simulate the action. But this local attitude to the high costs of shells is obviously not repeated everywhere, as shown by the annual sales of the Ministry's of Defence's ordnance factories (up from £75m. to over £100m. in 1973/74).

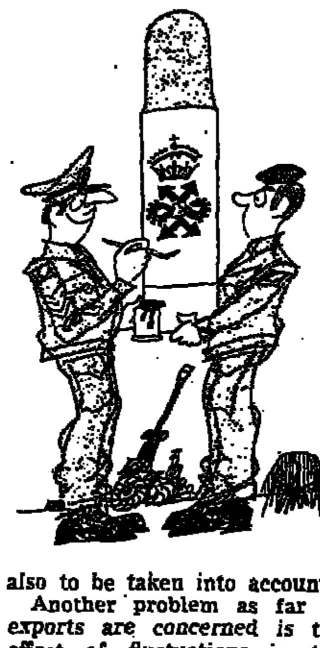
Of the latest figure, exports represented some £40m., and the performance is recognised to-day with a Queen's Award for Export going to the factories, the first time a ministry has been on the receiving end of the award scheme.

Before the last war there were about 40 ordnance factories round the country, but rationalisation has whittled the total down to 13 employing 22,000. They produce the whole range of military hardware, from small arms and ammunition to tanks and missiles. The award citation talks of the manufacture of "defence stores and equipment for the Armed Forces of the Crown," and also supplies for Commonwealth and (reassuringly) "other friendly Governments." Overseas customers can also get technical advice on manufacture and the setting up of facilities.

Two of the ordnance factories are agency operations run by private enterprise. One in Scotland which specialises in propellents is managed by ICI's Nobel Explosives subsidiary and the other near the Welsh border by Wickman Wimet. Ironically (and do not forget the shell-substituting computer) the two agency factories can both claim Swedish links: Nobel Explosives' origins go back to a company owned by Alfred Nobel, developer of dynamite and the famous peace prizes; and Wickman Wimet was sold by John Brown to the Swedish Sandvik group three years ago.

Staying with the military, another award goes to a Brighton-based maker of uniforms, A. Grantham, "now reaping the rewards for earlier perseverance with overseas governments and other local authorities." Agnes Grantham started the business in 1915, concentrating on raincoats. The Hutchinson family took over in 1937, but uniforms didn't start until 1968, with the acquisition of Huggins of Bristol.

Both in the U.K. and abroad, Grantham supplies military, police and airline outfits and, like the weapons, there seems no shortage of new takers. Exports have increased sixfold to a level approaching £3m. Director Michael Hutchinson, not surprisingly, approves of spruce turn-outs, and says that his company provides essentials all the way to mosquito nets.



Assessing the scheme

This is the 11th year of the Queen's Award scheme, and during that period some 13,885 companies have applied on grounds of export performance, technological achievement or both—though from this year joint awards are no longer being made. Of that number of applications a total of 1,059 have been successful and so, apparently has the scheme—in spite of criticisms levelled at it.

The most obvious of these on the export front is that the award is based mainly on increase in exports, and therefore tends to discriminate against companies with a high basic export content—although the assessors have answered this to some extent by including a clause which allows the level of achievement in the base year also to be taken into account.

Another problem as far as exports are concerned is the effect of fluctuations in the value of the pound. "A substantial and sustained increase in export earnings to a level which is outstanding" can be made substantially easier in sterling terms if the pound is sinking fast.

All that is required to enter for either award is an application to the Queen's Award Office which is situated in 1, Victoria Street—home of the departments of Trade, Industry, and Prices and Consumer Affairs. After that it is simply a question of filling in the form supplied—answering 20 questions in the case of technology and 30 in the case of exports—and awaiting results.

As the forms specifically state, they are designed to keep to a minimum the amount of extra effort required on the part of companies or their divisions. "Elaborate bindings or bulky presentations should be avoided; trade literature or samples are not required," says the spartan introduction.

It is not, therefore, a costly exercise to enter for either of the awards: all but the smallest companies would have the required information readily to hand. A total of nearly 14,000 applications since the scheme began shows that many companies feel that the effort is worthwhile, and it appears to be most valuable when dealing with overseas clients. With few major monarchies left, the Royal imprimatur seems to count for a lot in the republics of this world.

Auspicious

"For a few hours modern Western technology came face to face with some of the mysteries of the East." The prose may be purplish, but the story was an unusual one: Cerebos, a subsidiary of RHM (the old Ranks Hovis McDougall group) opened a factory in Thailand and got a send-off with prayers from Buddhist monks.

An abbot and eight saffron-robed monks performed the ceremony at the new plant near Bangkok, reported in the latest issue of RHM's house newspaper. At one stage, the monks sat cross-legged on a dais in the factory canteen and a piece of thin rope was passed through their hands and around the whole factory site. A welcome change from the usual stuffy speeches?

Manx tail?

In the unlikely event of a Manxman getting hold of a copy of the form produced for a census to be held in Guernsey this month, the fur is likely to fly. Although the Isle of Man is bracketed with the Channel Islands as an offshore tax haven, the Guernsey form carries an explanatory note which says: "Guernsey includes Herm and Jethou. England includes the Isle of Man."

Observer

The Government is soon expected to consider a gesture towards cutting aid to better-off home buyers. Michael Cassel reports

A vast and politically cloudy arena

four and a half mil- ... buyers should have ... ne small comfort in that, for the first time ... ars, the mortgage rate ... vay down. A substan- ... ortion of them, how- ... d be in for some less ... news if some of the ... dations now being ... l in the Government's housing finance are put into practice.

... iew, which should be ... rs' hands by June and ... n the basis for legis- ... 1978, has been taking ... look at a whole range ... rental issues affecting ... olicy in the U.K. Apart ... mining the essential ... of the desirable levels ... investment in and out- ... using, the review has ... ting a great deal of ... to the search for an ... nd progressive distri- ... stem for housing aid, ... what is now widely ... as a haphazard and irrational system.

... a for examination is and clouded equally ... y political and finan- ... iderations, but the ... ue of achieving equity ... council tenant, private ... d owner occupier is ... he trickiest of all the ... ial topics raised.

... thinking within the ... nt of the Environment ... rently accepted that ... made on establishing a ... fair and economic pric- ... housing sector, with ... going only to those who ... n, will necessarily in- ... progressive raising of ... nts to offset a larger ... of costs than in the ... seems most unlikely, ... hat such a policy could ... plated by the present Administration without making some gesture which lowered the level of help to owner occupiers, or at least some of them, even if it were recognised that the assistance they received was already below that of council tenants.

Suggestions involving the lowering of aid to home buyers have been put by numerous representative bodies in their evidence to the present review and it is thought that the man on whose desk the final report would have landed, Mr. Anthony Crosland, the former Secretary for the Environment, had some sympathy for such an approach. In October, 1974, Mr. Crosland pledged himself to stop a situation in which "the richest men in our society get their houses on the cheap" because of the benefits of tax relief; while subsequent events showed that his determination in this direction waned, it never completely disappeared.

Mr. Crosland

The views of Mr. Crosland's successor, Mr. Peter Shore, remain for the time being unknown, but it seems likely that if he does accept any case involving a growing financial commitment for the council tenant — over and above normal rent increases — then some action in the owner occupied sector could well be regarded as a political necessity.

Proposals have ranged from the total abolition of tax relief on home loans, an idea originally put forward last year by Transport House research staff but later vetoed as being politically unacceptable, to a scheme limiting relief to the level currently enjoyed by the basic rate taxpayer.

Additional suggestions by the Party in its evidence, which has Green Paper status, are that relief should be limited to 25 years and that the mortgage ceiling on which tax relief is applicable — introduced in 1974 and affecting any loan over £25,000 — should be lowered to a figure nearer the average level of house prices, allowing for regional variations. The Labour Party document also suggests that the clawing back of relief from higher rate taxpayers should be considered.

Its feelings on the position of home owners are made clear. Apart from emphasising the capital gains element of house ownership, the evidence states: "The owner occupier is, on average, the best-off and the least in need of assistance, but the most heavily subsidised. The council tenant is less well off but less heavily helped." It also points out that the larger a borrower's income, the smaller the net rate of interest paid on the loan, and illustrates its case by showing that relief on a £10,000 loan over 25 years for borrowers paying the highest rate of tax would be over £19,000 compared to under £7,000 for basic rate taxpayers.

While accepting that council housing is also far from equitably financed, the Party document says that the elimination of such "privileged financial assistance" for home buyers would best be brought about by the replacement of the existing tax relief on mortgage interest payments with a universal mortgage subsidy scheme.

Just how many people would face larger mortgage repayments if such a proposal was introduced is uncertain. Figures indicate, however, that at one stage last year—when 651,000 loans were made—between 15 per cent. and 20 per cent. of all loans were going to people benefiting from higher levels of tax relief on their repayments, although the proportion has varied substantially between one period and another.

Will Mr. Peter Shore, the new Environment Secretary, adopt his predecessor's pledge to stop "the richest men" getting their houses "on the cheap" through tax reliefs?

The extent of the increase in the monthly commitment, given *the equalisation of tax relief*, would naturally vary in individual cases but a borrower with a £25,000 mortgage, paying the new 10.5 per cent. interest rate and earning between £12,000 and £15,000 a year would find himself paying nearly £700 a year more than would now be the case.

In addition, many more home buyers would face higher payments if any plan were introduced which restricted tax relief to loans which were more in line with average house prices, rather than the existing £25,000 ceiling. Last year, average prices stood at between £12,000 and £13,000.

Opposition to any proposals along these lines—the financial benefits for the Exchequer are *acknowledged to be relatively* meagre—has come from several directions.

In its own evidence to the finance review, the Building Societies' Association underlines all its representations with the clear message that Government interference in the housing market is not to be encouraged. It examines the arguments on housing subsidies and concludes that owner occupation is not only what people want but that it is far cheaper for the taxpayer and ratepayer than having to provide council homes.

The Association has its own set of figures to support its point. The societies claim that, in the past financial year, average tax relief per dwelling was £94 while the average sub*sidy to council tenants was £240.*

In supporting the case for owner occupation, the societies do not seek to suggest that this represents the complete answer to the housing problem, but they state their belief that political differences should be minimised and that the private and public sector should work in harmony rather than rivalry.

While urging the Government not further to penalise higher rate tax payers, the societies point out that such a move would make it even less advantageous to own expensive homes, leading to overheating in the cheaper price ranges and making it more difficult for new buyers to enter the market.

The societies, in any case, give only qualified acceptance to the theory that tax relief on mortgage interest can be regarded as a form of subsidy *and claim that the relief* is largely funded automatically through tax paid on building society interest to investors.

Indivisible

By its own actions, say the societies, the Government has already accepted that the housing market is indivisible and that damage can be done by ad hoc measures aimed at particular sectors. The Government decision last year to increase the special advance limit on mortgages from £13,000 to £20,000 was, they contend, partly in recognition of the fact that restrictions affecting the top end of the market had far wider implications.

Concern in this direction also eventually prompted Mr. Crosland to pass on an undertaking in early 1975 from the Chancellor of the Exchequer that, in view of the need to *activate the market in unsold* houses in the higher price ranges, there were no immediate plans to withdraw tax relief at the higher rate.

The societies also challenge the popular assumption that the Government should give preferential treatment to council tenants because they are always less well-off than owner occupiers. This year, they point out, £80m. has been added to the central Government subsidy of £790m. to hold down council rents but no assistance has been given to people, however poor, in other housing sectors. The figures, however, show that there is a tremendous overlap between council tenants and owner occupiers in terms of income, socio-economic grouping or any other variable.

"Once again," the societies assert, "it can be seen that Government assistance to council tenants or the penalising of owner occupiers must inevitably have an arbitrary effect and there is no guarantee that income distribution will be influenced in the desired manner." Their evidence adds: "The importance of movement within the housing stock has long been recognised although one might be forgiven for thinking that this is not the case in the light of some of the suggestions that are being made to reform the housing finance system."

The societies suggest that if the Government feels income should be redistributed "from the rich to the poor," the simple and effective way to achieve this is through the tax and social security systems, something which is already being extensively achieved.

There is clearly no easy solution to the problem of establishing a fair picture of distribution of financial aid between *the owner occupied and council* housing sectors, which is only one of the many areas to be considered by the review. Its task is an enormous one and there is now some hope that it could signify the start of an attempt to provide the total housing sector with a comprehensive strategy to supercede the piecemeal developments of the past.

Letters to the Editor

...ling foreign ...ts

... Export Group ... Croydon Chamber ... rce and Industry

... first examination the ... nt's recent decision to ... porters £50 for finding ... as agent, and £5 for ... tus report, facilities ... provided free of ... ight seem to be un- ... punitive against a ... on of U.K. industry ... tarved of incentives ... uragement. A more ... ppreciation might sug- ... interesting future ... nts in the services ... British Overseas Trade ... its overseas posts ... r British exporters.

... will pretend, least of ... vernment, that facili- ... porters through over- ... particularly in find- ... agents, have been ... satisfactory in the ... is principally because ... mmercial offices have ... able to cope with the ... ne of requests from ... and what success ... achieved has been ... because of accident ... design.

... firms are going to ... urely presages some ... improvement in the ... services provided. ... doubt anticipated by ... ment, many would-be ... ill now be deterred ... ses involved, so the ... requests will be ... educed. This in turn, ... overnment and in- ... ubtedly hope, will ... attention to be ... individual requests ... *facto*, more reliable

... ggest, as a long- ... but still ebullient ... ial exporter, that ... justified in insisting ... le for money paid ... rvices. Do we, for ... ve to pay if we are ...? Will HM overseas ... es commit them- ... vice on a par with ... by the banks and ... dstreet?

... is going to require ... is" in many HM ... posts abroad, with ... not to sweep any- ... the carpet.

... itehead.
... Miscombe Road, ...

... exporter

... White.

... years back the ... edits Guarantee ... offered a "Small ... licy" which was ... to encourage the ... exporting and those ... a small way. At ... e qualification for ... cy would be for ... ents not exceeding ... policy was valid for ... r until a total of ... of business had ... ed, whichever is the ... It is no longer ... it would appear ... e wide range of ... d by ECGD there ... aimed at assisting ... porting company, ... with pre-shipment

... t the moment, a ... ECGD to examine ... of issuing once ... Exporter Policy ... business to cover ... turnover of say ... ring the policy ... instance, to qualify ... cent. pre-shipment ... the overall limit. ... g of the business would be left to the exporter's bank and will depend to a large extent on the personal experience the bank has gained of the exporter's business, the credit rating of the overseas buyer, and in the case of pre-shipment finance, being satisfied with all aspects of the commercial contract.

Documentation relating to the negotiation, issue and operation of the suggested policy should be kept to the minimum and in simple terms. As with all other policies, the exporter's responsibilities, and the percentage cover would remain the same. A flat rate single premium is suggested for the introduction of this new policy. Additional premiums to be charged as and when pre-shipment finance is utilised under the policy. Finance should be provided by the banks at no more than 1½ per cent. over the base rate, and for the pre-shipment finance an upper limit of 3 per cent. over the base rate.

The foregoing will go a long way to provide some of the help and assistance that many of our small exporting companies require. Higher exports would make a vital contribution to counter inflation by improving the balance of payments, thereby, helping to strengthen Sterling.

A. M. White.
5, Woodknoll Drive, Chislehurst, Kent.

Waste paper and board

From The Director, Public Sector Economics Research Centre, University of Leicester.

Sir, — Mr. Adams' remarks (April 15) about the letter that Mr. Wilkins and I wrote are somewhat misdirected. Neither I nor my staff are "retained" by John Dyer (Fibres), and it is quite unclear to me how Mr. Adams gained that impression from the letter I jointly signed. I have no financial or personal interest in the paper industry.

Mr. Adams repeats the well-worn argument that local authorities will not enter the market without some stabilisation. This is too simplistic a view to substantiate a Government subsidy. In the first place, local authorities have moved in and out of the market in the past, sometimes losing, sometimes gaining. What Mr. Adams *fails to point out* is that we have no evidence to suggest that local authorities are any better off supplying a stabilised market. Essentially, while stabilisation gives some security, it very often can give less profit.

Without a rigorous appraisal of what an excess stocks scheme might do, we really are justified in expressing doubt about the use of public money for industrial subsidy in this way. That was the doubt expressed by Mr. Wilkins, who has a long experience of the industry, and I as someone who has researched the industry's problems. It is mildly disturbing to find Mr. Adams expressing "concern" that we should voice those doubts.

Whether the forecast 1.1m. tonnes waste paper "deficit" relates to 1980 or "the early 1980s," as the Waste Management Council would have it, is really unimportant. Of course, forecasting is not a precise science, but making it as scientific as possible is better than relying on the results of questionnaires that ask people's "requirements." Why not take the grade composition of output and relate it to other variables in the economy and see what results this gives? This is the only scientific approach and if it is used it will show that the annual rate of growth of waste paper consumption cannot possibly reach the 6.5 per cent. required for there to be a shortage by 1980 or the slightly lower rate if the shortage is now postponed to the early 1980s. The EEC forecasts are also muddled, as close inspection of their consultative document would show, but at least they do not produce unbelievable results.

David Pearce.
University of Leicester, Leicester.

Big Four bank profits

From The Director, Banking Information Service

Sir,—Gordon Tether's attack on bank charges (April 12) is constructed around one astonishing assertion—the "Big Four 1975 profits were almost eight times as large in money terms as those recorded in 1967. And when the fall in the value of money has been fully allowed for, this still points to an increase of between three and four times."

Ignoring the choice of 1967 as base year when profits on the whole fell, when mergers had still to take place, and when full disclosure had yet to change some of the bases on which banks accounts were drawn, it would seem that Mr. Tether has succeeded only in comparing net profits *after* taxation in 1967 with *pre-tax* profits in 1975.

Even then, not from Mr. Tether is there any concession of a dynamic situation: the heavy investment programme of the banks in the 1960s which began to pay dividends on the early 1970s; the tremendous upsurge and increased diversity of work after 1970; the strenuous efforts of bank managers and staffs to cope with this much greater volume. Not even a mention of the clawing back by the Government of interest on special deposits to neutralise the endowment element in high interest rates. Mr. Tether ignored, too, what has been pointed out by the banks, namely the fact that profits have not been high enough to prevent a fall in the ratio of capital and reserves to deposits—which might have saved his error.

On a reasonably comparable basis between 1967 and 1975, profits of the Big Four banks are up just over three times in money terms. On this single fact, the whole edifice of Mr. Tether's contrived article collapses, leaving only the unworthy sneers and spiteful overtones. The discredit boomerangs against Mr. Tether.

John Hunsworth.
10, Lombard Street, E.C.3.

A modest 100%

From Mr. F. Weiss.

Sir,—My firm received recently a note from the bank branch (one of the Big Four), where our account is kept, informing us: "that with immediate effect the cost of advice telephone calls from our overseas branch concerning incoming funds, has been increased from 50p to £1. This charge will apply to all cable payment orders received for pre-advice or disposal instructions"

The overseas department is only a few hundred yards from the branch in question. Calls within this radius cost—even from phone boxes—a maximum of 5p. I assume therefore that the addition of a modest 100 per cent. to the charge for a service most essential to the export trade is in anticipation of further rises on telecommunication accounts.

It seems fortunate that messengers are no longer employed, who formerly brought by hand this sort of intelligence on little slips of paper. In these days, shoes cost an awful lot of money, and I am sure under present conditions the banks would pass on the price of the footwear too, to the customer, who has already to wait long enough until overseas funds reach his account from the Head office half a mile away.

Francis Weiss.
Max Weiss and Son.
3, Skinners Lane (Queen Street), E.C.4.

Illegally acquired

From Mr. A. Morrison.

Sir,—Millions of shares may have been compulsorily acquired illegally in takeovers from small shareholders.

Section 209(3) of the Companies Act 1948 gives a company which has acquired over 90 per cent. of the shares of another company the right, which it need not exercise, to acquire compulsorily the remainder from non-assenting shareholders. This right must be exercised "on the expiration of the date on which the notice (of compulsory acquisition) was given . . ."

"Gore-Browne on Companies," the only book on company law to do so, interprets this as "within one month of the date of the notice . . . ." This was an opinion, as there is no precedent. The Act states, "*on* the expiration," not "before" or "after," and the time-span defined by "on" ranges from "immediately after" to "one day."

Both of the learned editors of "Gore-Browne" consider that in the next edition of their Handbook the words "within one month of" should be substituted by "at the expiration of one month from."

Shares which have been acquired more than one day *after* expiration, and many have, may have been acquired illegally.

A. W. Morrison.
68, Dundrennan Road, Glasgow.

Suspicious foundrymen

From The Hon. Secretary, East Midlands Branch, Institute of British Foundrymen

Sir,—The cessation of activities by the Foundry Industry Training Committee (April 13) is an event which should not be allowed to proceed quietly until all the relevant details are made public.

The FITC has, since its inception, given invaluable service both to industry and the members of the foundry industry, and the current high standard of academic and practical ability prevailing in the industry is the result of their work.

Times change and it may well be that the ground work laid by FITC will be further strengthened by the Engineering Industry Training Board. One must ask, however, if further centralisation of the decision-making machinery in training is to the foundry industry's advantage. The days of the foundryman being concerned solely with sand and metal are over and to-day he is required to be a specialist in many aspects of mechanical, electrical and production engineering, hence the setting up of the HND and degree courses in foundry technology.

The EITB has many members who operate tied foundries and it is probably felt that these people can adequately represent the interests of non-tied foundries. There are many foundrymen who at this moment are very suspicious over the motives for transferring the decision-making machinery from FITC to EITB.

In an industry which is at last being realised as being as basic to the economy as coal or steel, it would be foolish not to have as wide a discussion as possible on its future training needs and how these objectives can adequately be met.

G. A. Allen.
17, Heather Close, Newthorpe, Notts.

Executive benefits

From Mrs. M. Pearse.

Sir,—Mr. Upton's suggestion (April 15) has already been implemented. Since the 1960's railway employees have paid tax on the "free travel" element of their remuneration. What is more they pay this tax whether they use the facility or not, and many railwaymen do not use all the passes to which they are entitled. It is unfortunate that such a modest payment in kind should arouse so much envy—especially in those with whom railwaymen would cheerfully swop salaries, perks and responsi*bilities, were it not that most of* them enjoy their work.

M. Pearse.
"Hillside," 36, Kibblewhite Crescent, Twyford, Berks.

Latin America centre

From Mr. W. Sabel

Sir,—Considerable attention is now being paid to the problems of technology transfer into Latin America, but more needs to be done, and co-ordination of all these efforts would probably be beneficial. It now seems timely, therefore, to establish in Britain, a Centre for Latin American Technology Studies.

The Centre would serve a variety of purposes and contribute substantially to the efforts being made by industrialists in Britain to promote mutually beneficial trading relationships with the developing countries in Latin America, by providing a source of expertise and knowledge of conditions so that development requirements can be properly identified and appropriate industrial project proposals put forward by British manufacturers. Supporting services required for these projects, including investment analysis, and identification and provision of training needs would be assisted by the work of the Centre, which would also serve a valuable purpose in promoting the co-ordination of the numerous activities of groups in industry, education and Government currently interested in Latin America.

The aim will be to relate specialist skills and experience in science, technology and management of technological projects to the particular needs of Latin America and so contribute to the work of Government agencies and industrial and educational institutions directed towards technological development in that region. To achieve this objective, the planning and operation of the Centre must be carried out in close consultation with the main beneficiaries and users of its services, among which will be British industrial and financial institutions.

William Sabel.
Oxford Polytechnic.
Headington, Oxford.

To-day's Events

GENERAL

The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh hold reception at Windsor Castle—on Her Majesty's 50th birthday—for members of Victoria Cross and George Cross Association.

Mr. Roy Hattersley, Minister of State, Foreign Affairs, continues talks with Norwegian Government on British-Icelandic fishing dispute, Oslo.

CBI Financial Policy Committee meets.

Board of Representatives of Commonwealth Fund for Technical Co-operation meets, Marlborough House, S.W.1.

Scottish TUC, Perth.

Voting resumes at British Leyland's Triumph plant, Coventry, on continuance of go-slow over productivity levels.

Shoregangers at port of Liverpool meet to discuss their strike over manning levels.

Cam Education Foundation lunch in honour of Lord Robens of Woldingham, Waldorf Hotel, W.C.2.

National Union of Teachers conference, Scarborough.

OFFICIAL STATISTICS

Retail trade (March—provisional). Basic rates of wages and normal weekly hours (March). Monthly index of average earnings (February).

COMPANY RESULTS

Delta Metal (full year). Sun Life Assurance Society (half-year).

COMPANY MEETINGS

Barrow Hepburn, Dorchester Hotel, W. 11. Edinburgh and Dundee Investment, Edinburgh, 10. Friedland Doggart, Manchester, 12.

MUSIC

Yehudi Menuhin and Jeremy Menuhin give concert for violin and piano of works by Bach, Bartok and Beethoven, Fairfield Hall, Croydon, 8 p.m.

BALLET

London Festival Ballet: Gaye Fulton and Peter Breuer dance Swan Lake, Coliseum Theatre, W.C.2, 7.30 p.m.

COMPANY NEWS + COMMENT

Spillers on target with £15.5m.

IN THE SECOND half of 1975-76 *profits of Spillers improved further*—from £4.21m. to £8.89m.—bring*ing the total for the year ended* January 31 up to a record £15.47m. *This represents more than a full* recovery, and compares with the depressed £7.35m. reported for 1974-75.

At the time of the rights issue last November the directors forecast that profits, before incorporating the loss attributable to the group's interest in the Zambian associate National Milling Company, would be around £15.7m.

At the interim stage it was announced that attributable losses *of the order of £800,000 would fall* to be incorporated in group accounts for *1975-76 relating to the* holding in National Milling. The attributable loss in the final accounts amounts to £804,000 and is the principal reason for the reduction in the share of profits of associates—from £801,000 to £254,000.

The loss has extinguished the *net assets attributable to the com*pany's 24.5 per cent. shareholding *in National Milling and, therefore,* any further attributable loss will not affect the consolidated profits in the future, the directors point out.

Group profit for the year attributable to Ordinary holders *emerges ahead from £3.15m. to* £5.89m.; and earnings per 25p *share are stated to be up from* 2.69p to 4.46p.

The dividend, as *foreshadowed,* is raised by the maximum permitted—from 2.5025p to 2.295p net, with a final of 1.69p.

	1975-76 £000	1974-75 £000
Turnover	582,000	519,000
Trading surplus	27,194	18,827
Depreciation	7,213	6,201
Profit	19,981	12,626
Trade invest. income	137	129
Investment grants	401	400
Investment income	149	—
Profit before interest	20,664	13,154
Interest payable	5,449	6,601
Share associates	254	801
Profit before tax	15,469	7,354
Taxation	8,729	3,759
Net profit	6,740	3,595
Minorities	1,235	330
Net balance	5,505	3,265
Total dividends	3,527	2,737
Retained	1,978	528

See Lex

INDEX TO COMPANY HIGHLIGHTS

Securities Trust Scotland pays 4.8p

Revenue earned for the Ordinary declined from £1.06m. to £0.94m. during the year to March 31, 1976, at **Securities Trust of Scotland**, but the dividend is being raised from 4.7p to 4.8p net, with a final of 3.05p—*stated* earnings are 4.71p (5.3p) per 25p share.

At halfway the directors anticipated that the dividend would be *maintained* at the 1974-75 level. Gross revenue at year-end declined from £2.54m. to £2.19m.

After deducting prior charges at par, net asset value was 188p *(138p) and 218½p (161½p) after* deducting prior charges at market value.

Huntleigh £142,000 behind

FOLLOWING THE *trend indicated* at the interim stage, second half *profits of Huntleigh Group show* improvement over the first. But the overall result for 1975 is a decline from £684,084 to £542,991.

On present indications, however, the group should do well in the current year, says chair*man Sir Joseph Hunt.* He expects an advance in turnover and *profits.*

In 1975, turnover rose from £3.13m. to £3.64m. The attributable profit was £294,892 (£317,404), after tax £278,503 (£351,686) and extraordinary credits £30,404 (debits £14,994).

Fully diluted earnings are shown at 8.1p (10.5p) per 10p share. *The final dividend is* 0.974p for a net total of 1.92p (1.771p).

Net tangible assets were 56.6p (48.8p) net per share.

Sir Joseph says that Darwen Storage profits were reduced be*cause of the low state of the* economy and, with the electronics industry severely affected, the results of Edicron and Micro-image Technology also suffered. *Hymatic,* on the other hand, made a further strong advance.

*With the acquisitions of Flow*tron Aire and Micro-Image Technology group emphasis has been further shifted to operations based upon company designed *products,* serving well-spread markets. Resources have been in*vested in both companies to* shape up the group potential for sustained growth.

A. Caird peak £105,320

Turnover of tailors, outfitters, general drapers and furriers, A. Caird and Sons, improved from £1.79m. to £2.06m. for the year *to January 31, 1976 and pre-tax* profit was up from £90,996 to a record *£105,320.*

In the first half, turnover expanded by 23 per cent. to £897,000 (but fell to 18.5 per cent. after nine months) and profit was £14,500, compared with a loss of £3,700.

Stated earnings at year-end were 12.7p per £1 share (10.6p) *and the dividend is raised from* 6.1425p to 6.7567p net.

	1975-76 £	1974-75 £
Turnover	2,081,000	1,789,000
Pre-tax profit	105,320	90,996
Tax	57,913	50,136
Extra-ord. credits	[illegible]	14,495
To reserves	54,632	28,910

Menzies expands by £0.6m.

A NEAR *£600,000 increase in* profits to £2.72m. is reported by **John Menzies (Holdings)** for the year ended January 31, 1976.

At halfway, the profits were £100,000 *ahead* and the directors were looking for an "acceptable result."

The final dividend is 1.92p to make 3.82p (3.52p) net per 25p share.

	1975-76 £000	1974-75 £000
Turnover	125,441	104,195
Profit before tax	2,728	2,138
Taxation	1,450	1,212
Net profit	1,170	926
Extraord. credits	190	92

● **comment**

John Menzies has slowed its *expansion* programme down to walking pace over the the last *year or so—only 8.2 per cent.* was added to square footage during 1975-76—but the group is still reaping benefits from the rapid development achieved in the pre*vious two years and this played* a major part in last year's pre-tax growth of 27 per cent., excluding exceptional items. In the years 1973-74 and 1974-75 the group added respectively 40 per cent., and 37 per cent. to sales capacity *and since it takes about three* years for any new store to reach *profits maturity the benefits from* this should still be boosting profits *in the current year.* Beyond that, the group's outlook is less excit*ing. With fewer new stores* expected to reach profits in 1977-78 the group must be headed for at least a temporary slowdown in growth. But its cash position is strong—net cash now stands at around £1¼m. against net borrowings of £2¼m. a year ago—and the group's continuing move towards higher-margin leisure products, such as records *and gifts,* must enhance its chances of staying on the upward *trend.* At 132p the *yield* of 4.5 per cent. is slightly ahead of both *W. H. Smith and Martin the News*agent.

Over £1m. increase at Currys

TAXABLE PROFIT up from *£6.88m. to a record £8.08m. from* turnover ahead from £100.56m. to *£114.75m. is announced by* retailers of domestic electrical appliances, television and radio equipment, **Currys**, for the year ended January 28, 1976. At halfway profit was £4.44m., against £2.26m.

In October the directors said the company would do less well *in the second half than in either* of the two previous ones but they hoped that year-end profit would be "close to that generated in 1974-75."

Dividend total is being raised from 3.359p to 3.69475p net per 25p share.

	1975-76 £000	1974-75 £000
Turnover*	114,753	100,378
Trading profit	8,041	6,720
Surplus sale props.	41	128
Profit before tax	8,082	6,858
Amort. and deprec.	1,289	1,263
Remun. directors	109	94
To pension scheme	23	12
Staff pension	395	225
Auditors' fees	34	31
Interest on deposits	9	7
Overdraft interest	4	97
From prov. for unmatured profit	877	1,922
Interest rec.	952	139
Tax	4,371	3,762
Net profit	3,711	3,096
To inflation res.	2,415	1,465
Pref divs.	30	30
Ordinary	860	782

* Includes VAT.

See Lex

TRUST & AGENCY AUSTRALASIA

Trust and Agency Company of Australasia is holding discussions with advisors with a view to finding a satisfactory means of obtaining the status of an invest*ment trust,* the chairman, Mr. Charles Hughes, told shareholders at yesterday's AGM.

The investment policy of the company and its subsidiary is that of an investment trust but at present the parent is taxed as *a finance company.*

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

	Current payment	Date of payment	Corre-sponding div.	Total for year	Total last year
A. Caird	6.76	—	6.14	6.76	6.14
Canadian & Foreign	1.91	June 24	1.61	2.7	2.4
Currys	3.69	—	3.36	3.69	3.36
G. R. Dawes ......int.	1.75	May 21	1.75	—	1.75
First Finsbury	1.45	—	2	2.2	2
Harrison & Sons	0.76	—	2.27	2.24	3.76
Huntleigh Group	0.97	July 2	0.9	1.92	1.77
London Utd. Invest.	1.71†	June 2	1.51	3.42	3.09
John Menzies	1.92	—	1.93	3.82	3.52
Ocean Transport	3.49†	July 1	3.18	6.66	6.15
Securities Trust Scotland	3.05	—	2.95	4.8	4.7
Spillers	1.69	July 1	1.63	2.5	2.3
Toye and Co.	0.65	May 24	1.26	0.65	1.26

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. * Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue. † On capital increased by rights and/or acquisition issues.

Royal now has 51% solvency margin

THE IMPROVEMENT in the major stock markets throughout last year was a particularly help*ful feature for Royal Insurance,* says the chairman, Mr. D. Meinertzhagen. With the additional capital raised by the rights issue this resulted in a solvency margin of 46 per cent. at the end of 1975.

The further rise in market values this year means the margin *at present is standing* at around 51 per cent.

The firm measures taken during 1974 and continued in 1975 to reduce the group's exposures in the less profitable areas and classes of business are having their effect on reducing losses.

Mr. Meinertzhagen hopes that with much of the benefits from higher premiums still to emerge the trend in improvement would gather pace during the current year. He warns shareholders, *however, that following the* violent storms in the U.K. and with continuing problems in the U.S., such improvement might not emerge until the second half of the year.

The chairman expresses concern *in his report over the major* difficulty being experienced by in*surance companies in that in*creases in claim costs consistently outrun monetary rates of inflation. But he adds that political considerations often place limita*tions on increases in premium* rates; if such attitudes persist *then the capital bases of insurers* will be undermined making it increasingly difficult for insurers to accommodate the higher sums insured necessitated by inflation.

The past growth and success of the insurance industry has been based on the precepts of profitable underwriting and the pursuit of successful investment policies. *This is in the best interests of* both policyholders and shareholders and proposals which artificially influence the direction of the company's investment *policy must conflict with these* interests.

As already reported, Royal more than doubled its pre-tax profit from £15m. to £32.4m. in *1975. The underwriting loss was* £32.4m. (£39.8m.) previously, but the measure of improvement was not quite what had been looked for. Mr. Meinertzhagen explains that the final outcome was marred by the adverse effect of the unusually severe weather conditions experienced in parts of Canada during December.

Investment income rose to *£62.5m. (£51.8m.),* of which some £1.4m. arose from the investment of the *rights issue. Long term* funds contributed £1.7m. last year. The dividend is 13.387p (12.344p).

Meeting, Liverpool, May 13 at noon.

● **comment**

Royal's report highlights the shift in emphasis in the invest*ment portfolios of many compo*sites towards a greater proportion of fixed interest holdings. The group, which was not a heavy seller of equities during the bear market, did "lighten" its Ordinary share holdings as prices rose last year. This is broadly reflected in a £30m. drop to £294.2m. in Ordinary share investments (before the adjustment to market value). Royal invested most of its rights issue proceeds in fixed interest securities: holdings of British and overseas Government securities increased by £181m. to *£328m. over the year before the* market value adjustment. In the current year, the January storms in the U.K. and continuing problems in the U.S. means that the expected further improvement may "not emerge to any material degree" until the second half—a trend likely to be shared by the rest of the sector.

Chairman's Statement Page 25

SILENTBLOC CHIEF ASKED TO STAY

The Board of Silentbloc Hold*ings takes the view that it would* be inappropriate for the company's chairman, Mr. C. F. Whitehorn, to resign and he has been asked to continue as chairman.

*At a recent extraordinary meet*ing, BTR, which has a 27 per cent. stake in Silentbloc, vetoed proposals to adopt new articles and as a protest also voted against Mr. *Whitehorn's reappointment.* However, under the company's old articles *Mr. Whitehorn* was deemed re-elected since the meeting did not vote any other director in his place.

Underlying strength at Geo. Wimpey

The broad base of the interests of George Wimpey and Co. both at home and abroad provides an *underlying strength in facing the* "difficult problems" of the current year, says chairman Mr. R. B. Smith.

As reported on April 9 pre-tax profit *for 1975 advanced from* £33.49m. to £35.43m. and the dividend is 0.55426p (adjusted 0.51938p) net.

The chairman points out that *overseas,* both turnover and new work obtained showed a *"dramatic" uplift. He tells mem*bers that this is particularly encouraging in view of the downturn in the U.K. market due to the lack of capital expenditure in *both public and private sectors.*

Further expenditure was incurred during the year in continuing the construction of an extension to head office and purchases of additional premises in West London.

Nevertheless *liquid* funds accumulated and the group had £55.52m. in bank balances at the year-end.

At March 12 Grove Charity *Management held 49.75 per cent.* of the Ordinary.

Meeting, Royal Garden Hotel, W., on May 13 at noon.

Second half deficit at Toye

A turnround *from a profit of* £125,031 to a loss of £44,994 in the second half at Toye and Co., resulted in a profit fall from £224,138 to £24,831 for all 1975.

Restrictions on the use of gold, the imposition of the 25 per cent. rate in VAT and the general recession contributed to exceptional losses on limited editions and losses by the retail shops Kenning and Spencer.

However, *necessary corrective* action has been initiated and *traditional areas of the business* have expanded turnover and increased profits. With comparative sales for the first quarter of the current year showing an increase of 21 *per cent.* over the corresponding period in 1975 indicates *that a reasonable recovery will* be achieved for 1976.

Earnings per 25p share for 1975 are given at 0.16p (4.91p) and the dividend is 0.65p (1.25625p) net.

Greenfield Milletts

Shareholders of Greenfield Milletts yesterday approved the controversial £230,000 *purchase* by the company of two houses from *its managing directors, Mr. David* Greenfield and Mr. John Greenfield.

No questions were raised at the extraordinary general meeting held to vote on the deal, and shareholders present gave approval without dissent to the arrangement, under which the two directors pay a total of £3,500 a year in licence fees, to continue to occupy the houses.

It was revealed that proxy votes sent in by post backed the acquisition of the houses—at Richmond and Kingston-on-Thames—by a substantial majority, *though there was some* opposition. Proxy votes of 2,419,000 were in favour, with 526,000 against.

Of the company's 9.36m. shares, 3.27m. are held by Mr. David and Mr. John Greenfield, sons of the chairman, Mr. Richard Greenfield, *who abstained from voting on the* matter.

The houses were bought in February, 1975 from the two managing directors, who were still to live in them. The sum they pay annually is considerably less than the interest cost—£14,000—of the £100,000 loan with which the company partly financed the deal.

Ocean Transport reaches £22.6m.

AS FORECAST at the time of January's rights issue, profits before tax of *Ocean Transport and* Trading for 1975 reached £22.58m. compared with £28.98m. previously. First half profits had dropped from £14.36m. to £10.23m.

The year's profit includes £11.94m. (£16.77m.) from associated companies—some £12m. was anticipated—and £3.88m. (£1.01m.) profit on disposal of ships, etc. The associates profits also include *£1.2m.* arising from a change in accounting dates.

A net final dividend is the expected 3.4978p making a total of 6.6646p *against* 6.1473p in 1974. Stated earnings per 25p share, before extraordinary items were 12.19p (13.24p) based on shares in issue on December 31.

Turnover for the group rose from £285.39m. to £311.51m.

On prospects the directors say the year has begun reasonably satisfactorily though the group has not yet seen the long awaited evidence of a strong upward movement in U.K. trade.

Against so uncertain an economic and political background, at *home and overseas, they can* only indicate that 1976 results should be broadly similar to those of 1975.

	Year 1975 £000	1974 £000
Turnover	311,512	285,397
Trading profit*	14,593	13,108
Investment income	4,520	4,512
Interest payable	12,480	11,428
Profit disposal ships etc.	3,883	1,006
Associates profits	†11,944	16,771
Profit before tax	22,580	28,977
Tax	10,552	14,866
Profit	12,028	14,111
Exceptional loss	—	2,128
Exchange adjustments	842	777
Minorities	2,157	1,152
Net balance	10,713	11,580
Extraordinary credits	2,587	2,011
Attributable	13,300	13,591
Dividends proposed	5,825	5,398
Retained by group	8,742	884
Withdrawn associates	2,668	‡7,318

* After depreciation £16.74m. (£15.88m.). † Including £1.2m. arising from change in accounting dates. ‡ Retained.

See Lex

The share of associates is that attributable to the group's holding in Centreway Securities, Ryland Vehicle Group and Valcourt.

Stated earnings per 25p share are 5.65p (7.16p) at halfway and the interim dividend is 1.75p, absorbing £94,780. The previous year's interim payment of 1.75p stands as the total for 1974-75.

Statement Page 29

G. R. Dawes turns in £0.66m.

TRADING profits of G. R. Dawes Holdings improved from £602,000 to £633,000 in the six months ended September 30, 1975, *but at* the pre-tax level they fell from £797,000 to £655,000 after share of associates down from £237,000 to £108,000 and minorities of *£86,000 (£42,000).*

For the full year to March 31, 1975, trading profit was £1.35m. and pre-tax profit £1.64m. The shares.

Assocd. Biscuit prospects

THE chairman of The Associated Biscuit Manufacturers, Mr. R. P. Carr tells members that overall, the group is well placed to fulfill its immediate development plans and to face the vagaries of the *economic climate.*

A lower volume of trading together with continued improvement in working capital controls has benefited the group's worldwide cash position very materially. Much of this cash will *finance working* capital as trading volume recovers, the chairman says.

As reported on April 14, pre-tax profits rose by 50 per cent. from £6.51m. to £9.74m. with a net dividend of 2.6p (2.4p). Inflation accounting would have reduced pre-tax profit by some £3m. in 1975 *and* by about £5m. in *1974,* the adjustments arising from increased depreciation of over £1m. and from stock appreciation.

The year's profit increase re*flects a restoration* of margins in most areas and the elimination of losses in Australia, says *Mr. Carr.*

Last year, escalating raw materials prices levelled off and the problem was not so much that of raising selling prices and *financing working* capital as that of holding on to sales volume in a period of recession.

Sales to Europe were encouraging with a 48 per cent. increase and further progress was made towards a wider range of group *products in the EEC.*

Meeting, Great Western Royal Hotel, W., May 18 at 12.30 p.m.

RANDALLS GROUP

*Randalls Group through its sub*sidiary Parvin Brothers is acquiring the assets and premises of The Peter Byle and Company business of A. Baker (Hyde) of Hyde *Cheshire, for £35,545.* This will be satisfied partially by the issue by Randalls of 53,208 Ordinary 25p shares.

ISSUE NEWS

E.S.B. package

The Electricity Supply Board in *the Republic of Ireland* has announced plans to issue a package of 13 per cent. stock at par dated 1983-1985 and 9½ per cent. premium stock at par dated 1981 but *repayable at £120.* The amount of each issue is to be determined by the Board on April 30 and if applications exceed this figure, they will be scaled down and the *surplus amount* returned to the applicants.

Interest is payable on June 1 and December 1 and after the first interest payment this December, the 13 per cent. stock will be amalgamated with E.S.B. stock *1983-85 after having been desig*nated E.S.B. 13 per cent. stock 1983-85 "A" stock prior to December. The stock is to be listed on the Irish Stock Exchange Official *List and applications will close on* April 26.

LOCAL LOANS

The coupon rate on this week's batch of local authority yearling bonds is 10¼ per cent. against last week's 10¼ per cent. The bonds are priced at £99¹⁵⁄₁₆ per cent. and are due on April 27, 1977.

This week's issues are: East Staffordshire *District* Council (£½m.), Waveney District Council *(£½m.),* Fareham Borough Council (£½m.), Three Rivers District Council (£¼m.), Orkney Island Council (£1m.), West Oxfordshire District Council (£½m.), North Wiltshire District Council (£½m.), City of Winchester (£½m.), Afan *Borough Council (£½m.),* Cambridgeshire County Council (£½m.), Cumbria County Council (£1½m.), Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council (£1m), Warwick District *Council (£½m.), Watford Borough* Council (£½m.), Copeland Borough Council (£½m.), London Borough of Ealing (£1½m.), Chichester District Council (£½m.), London *Borough of Croydon* (£1m.), London Borough of Bromley (£1m.), *Wigtown* District Council (£½m.), West Somerset District Council (£½m.), Northampton Borough Council (£½m.), Rhymney Valley District Council (£½m.), *Roxburgh District Council* (£½m.), Lochaber District Council (£½m.), City of Glasgow District Council (£1m.), London Borough of Lambeth (£½m.), City of Nottingham (£½m.), *Corporation of London* (£1m.).

The London Borough of Newham has raised £½m. through the issue of 11½ per cent. stock at par and *due on April 19, 1978.*

...urther growth seen by ...omas Tilling

...TOO early to predict ...ate future with cer... Geoffrey Eley, chair... ...mas Tilling, says that ...my strengthens there ... steadily improving ...m past investments ...r expansion should ...rowth.

...a feeling that a ...mption of the group's ...ians may be justified. ...hairman explains, are ...ly on extending the ...cessful interests by ... investments and ... at home and overseas. ...oup pre-tax profit in... ...m £29.1m. to £33.6m. ... of the group profit, ...est and tax, by trade ...ven in the following

	1975 £m.	1974 £m.
...banting	8.5	11.4
...aterials	9.9	7.5
...	4.3	5.5
...	8.4	6.8
...beds	1.7	0.9
...	3.5	3.3
...es	1.3	1.1
...	2.3	1.4
...	0.4	1.8
...cry	1.5	1.1
...ation	3.5	0.3
...penses	0.9	0.9
...	44.4	40.4

...frey says that the ...ve examined how 1975 ...d be affected if appro... ...stments for inflation ... to accounts. Using ...licable to each group ... 1975, it is estimated ...her £6m. would have ...ed for the renewal of ... as a supplement to ... depreciation charge ... to provide for the ... of replacing stocks.

...ose provisions should ...nflationary gains of ... due to the financing ... by borrowings and ...tary liabilities.

...man says that although ...dered prudent in 1975 ... acquisition activities ...in capital expenditure, ...was careful to ensure ...onal subsidiaries were ...f funds to strengthen ...ncy. To this end they ...me £15m. during the

...nt of generation and ... of funds shows that ... year there was an ...cash surplus of £8m. ...the effect of changes ...position of the group ...rate a further £5m.

...urse of the year op... ...vas taken to convert ...bank overdrafts into ...m borrowings. In total ...rafts after deducting ...e bank and allowing for investments held for the short term, were reduced from £44m. at the end of 1974 to £17m. at the end of 1975.

As known, Sir Geoffrey plans to retire from the Board on May 31. He will be succeeded as chairman by Sir Robert Taylor, the present deputy. Meeting, 21, Tothill Street, S.W., May 14 at noon.

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London United Investments

PROFITS before tax and extraordinary items of London United Investments rose from £725,496 to £866,913 in 1975 on increased turnover of £5.59m. against £4.56m.

First-half profits were down from £289,000 to £248,000 but the directors said the reduction should not be taken as an indication of a trend for the full year. They expected result to exceed those for 1974.

As forecast with last June's rights issue, the final dividend is 1.7116p net making a total of 3.4232p compared with 3.0902p previously. Stated earnings per 5p share are 6.94p (5.24p) basic and 6.05p (5.04p) fully diluted.

Insurance accounted for 83 per cent. (68 per cent.) of the year's gross operating profit of £998,543 (£916,826)—some 85 per cent. of the insurance earnings is attributable to overseas business.

	Year 1975 £	1974 £
Turnover	5,594,361	4,556,760
Insurance	3,298,883	2,082,697
Property	968,913	1,060,166
Investment & trading	1,397,495	1,413,897
Operating profit	998,543	916,826
Insurance	833,948	629,232
Property	93,361	117,963
Investment & trading	81,036	169,631
Loan interest	120,659	123,462
Other	114,129	90,765
Associates share	103,149	22,898
Profit before tax	866,913	725,496
Tax	382,433	366,132
Net profit	484,480	359,364
Extraord. debits	491,946	133,535
Net loss	7,466	*235,829
From capital reserve...	395,761	97,347
Share expenses	40,964	1,671
Available	338,159	334,947
Dividends	358,360	202,671
Retained	70,179	132,276

* Profit.

NORTH WEST SECS.

The chairman of North West Securities, Sir Alastair Blair says a factor in the 36 per cent. rise in turnover and the 184.6 per cent. increase in profit for 1975 is the wide range of facilities now offered, enabling the group to develop those markets which have the most consistent demand.

The company and its subsidiaries, Industrial Bank of Scotland and IBOS Finance form a broadly based financial and banking organisation and there is a continuing policy of enlarging the area of operations, the chairman says.

The fall in the cost of money and the consequent reduction in charges assisted in increasing turnover from £50.98m. to £69.51m. Profits before tax rose from £1.43m. to £4.06m. In addition, experience of bad and doubtful debts improved.

In view of the large volume of business now being transacted, the directors have considered it prudent to retain all the year's profits, to increase the capital and reserves.

The group balance sheet shows that instalment credit and other finance debtors after provision for bad debts, stood at £66.19m. (£56.02m.). Short-term loans and deposits amounted to £71.21m. (£61.28m.).

The group's ultimate holding company is the Bank of Scotland.

Redundancy costs hit James Wilkes

But for non-repetitive but high extraordinary expenses due to redundancy payments and terminal costs of the Charlton factory, 1975 profits of James Wilkes—already reported at £0.41m. (£0.8m.) pre-tax—would have been higher, says Mr. James Wilkes, chairman.

During 1975 the company experienced in common with industry generally a year of adjustment and very unusual trading conditions. The previous record year of 1974 with its high demands due to most users' forward buying, led in 1975 to a much reduced demand due to destocking.

Orders in the early part of 1975 were much below capacity, and competition for some products so keen as to be unprofitable. The company was not alone in these circumstances.

Mr. Wilkes says that the spread of activities helped to cushion the worst effects. Some companies did very well, some only kept pace with inflation and some fell below. The total sales were £6.45m. which was close to the £6.57m. for 1974. Increased costs, however, reduced the surplus on this turnover from the 1974 record figure of £798,896 to £414,201.

According to a separate statement, profit, adjusted for inflation, was reduced to £110,000. Dividends for the year are 3,452p (same). The company makes business forms and equipment.

Meeting, Wolverhampton, May 20.

Prospects at Southampton Steam

A further improvement in results is hoped for at Southampton Isle of Wight and South of England Royal Mail Steam Packet Company, states the chairman, Mr. G. Jones.

He reports that there has been a reducing trend in the demand for towage services, but those concerned with the future development of the port of Southampton are optimistic that more business will be attracted in due course.

The re-organisation of the ferry service is now well established profitability as well as the additional capacity required in future years, he says. The hydrofoil service is now well-established and continues to increase in popularity. Both Vectis Transport and Cosens should benefit from any significant increase in the general level of trade, he adds.

The company starts the 1976 season with three ships and improved terminal facilities.

On March 27 it was reported that operating profit increased from £0.16m. to £0.23m. in 1975 but pre-tax profit declined from £0.47m. to £0.31m.—dividends are up from 6.82p to 7.411p net per 50p share.

Meeting, Southampton, May 12, 12.30 p.m.

Rugby Portland Cement expansion continues

IN HIS annual statement, the chairman of the Rugby Portland Cement Co., Sir Halford Reddish says the group finished last year with record profits, a very strong balance sheet, ample liquidity "and with our expansion for the future going ahead."

As to the current year, Sir Halford says that with the necessary restriction of Government expenditure to combat inflation and the effect that this is having, and will have for some time to come, on the constructional industries, it will be surprising if there is not a further modest fall in the U.K. demand for cement in 1976.

On the other hand, it now seems to be recognised that free enterprise industries must be allowed to make profits and that those profits are really almost the only source of an increase in the national wealth.

As reported on March 16, pre-tax profits last year rose from £10.58m. to £11.3m. with a dividend of 2.833p net (2.655p).

Costs continued to increase, says the chairman, and although three price rises were allowed during the year, "there is of necessity always a time lag." The most important event in this connection was the re-establishment of the industry's common price policy, Sir Halford points out.

Plans for expansion have gone on through the period of recession. The doubling of the South Ferriby works has been completed; and is ready for operation when needed.

Work on the Rochester expansion continues, detailed planning consent is expected in the next few weeks. But it will be the autumn of 1978 before the new plant is finished.

In Trinidad, where in spite of inflation and increasing costs no increase in the price of cement has been allowed by the Government for over seven years, with the exception of a small but quite inadequate one in January 1975, the results of the subsidiary, Trinidad Cement Ltd., for 1975 were only fractionally better.

The results of the Australian subsidiary, Cockburn Cement, showed a substantial fall from those of 1974 as constructional work was increasingly restricted. The outlook is now undoubtedly brighter, and better results are expected this year.

Sir Halford intends to retire as chairman, effective not later than the end of the year. Meeting, May 14.

J. LYONS

At the EGM of J. Lyons and Company held yesterday, the resolutions to implement the enfranchisement and related proposals were duly passed. However, the quorum requirements were not fulfilled for certain of the subsequent class meetings, and those have been adjourned until May 5.

BOARD MEETINGS

The following companies have notified dates of Board meetings to the Stock Exchange. Such meetings are usually held for the purpose of considering dividends. Official indications are not available whether dividends concerned are interims or finals and the sub-divisions shown below are based mainly on last year's timetable.

TO-DAY

Interims—Peter Brotherhood, Long and Hambly, Malayan Tin Dredging, Newman Granger Industries, Southern Malayan Tin Dredging, Sun Life Assurance Society.

Finals—Astbury and Madeley, Bestobell, George M. Callender, Danish Bacon, Delta Metal, Farm Feed, Francis Industries, Garnar Scotblair, Hawker Marris, Norman Hay, Edward le Bas, Manders, Root Harvesters, United Carriers, Wadham Stringer, Wight Construction.

FUTURE DATES

Interims:—	
Bryant Holdings	Apr. 28
Countryside Properties	Apr. 30
Hepworth (J)	Apr. 30
Hoover	Apr. 28
Maynards	Apr. 29
Simpson (S)	Apr. 28
Spencer Gears	Apr. 27
Ulster Television	May 7
Wolverhampton & Dudley Brews.	May 25
Yarrow	Apr. 27
Finals:—	
Averys	May 4
Barr & Wallace Arnold Trust	May 11
Debenhams	May 18
Dunlop	May 6
Flight Refuelling	Apr. 29
General Investors and Trustees	Apr. 22
Hall (Matthew)	Apr. 29
London Tin	Apr. 28
Macfarlane Group (Clansman)	Apr. 23
Mothercare	May 4
Mowlem (John)	Apr. 22
Nathan (B. and I.)	Apr. 30
Pearson Longman	Apr. 29
Sandeman (George)	Apr. 23
Shaw (Francis)	Apr. 22
Siemssen Hunter	Apr. 22
Simon Engineering	Apr. 26

Barton sees satisfactory year

Chairman of Barton and Sons, Mr. C. A. Roper says that present indications are that profits for 1976 will be "reasonably satisfactory" although not quite reaching the £2.97m. (£2.84m.) for 1975. The greater contribution will come from the second half of the year.

The engineering division while increasing sales by 7 per cent. in 1975, suffered reduced margins from 8.3 per cent. to 6.9 per cent. and consequently its profit contribution was down by 11 per cent. This reduction in the division's profits is accounted for by the continuation of development costs incurred on behalf of the casting section.

It is anticipated that no substantial cost under this heading will be chargeable in 1976, states Mr. Roper.

Meeting, Sutton Coldfield, on May 13 at 12.30 p.m.

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Harrison & Sons pays less

IN THE second half of 1975 Harrison and Sons, the printing group, incurred a loss of £95,000 bringing the deficit for the year up to £340,000, before tax relief, compared with a profit of £184,000 in the previous year and £440,000 in 1973.

The 1975 first half result was struck after charging exceptional losses of £254,000 arising from industrial disruption.

The chairman explains that the group has been adversely affected by a continual low level of production at its City printing company and disruption at High Wycombe due to late delivery of plant. The general depressed state of trading and heavy increase in costs caused by inflation have been strong contributory factors.

The special problems have been dealt with but the effect will not be evident until the second half of 1976. With a general improvement in trade, even of only modest proportions, the group results should again be satisfactory in 1977, members are told.

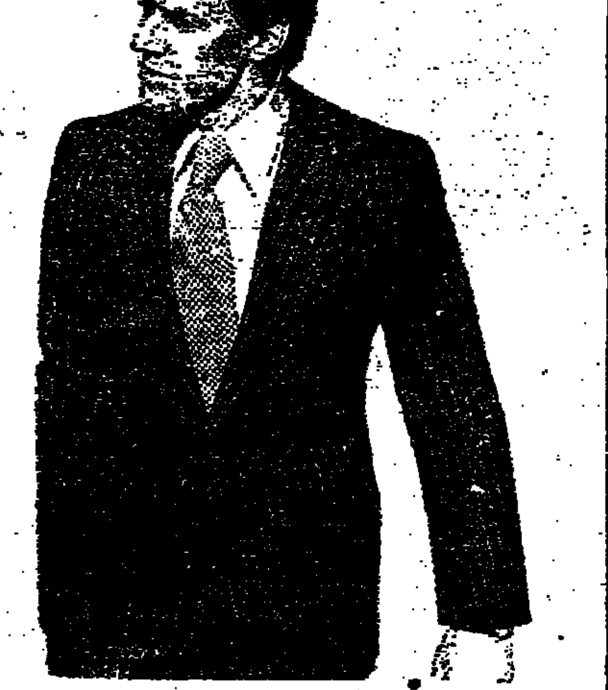
The loss per 25p share is stated at 10.14p compared with earnings of 3.83p. The dividend is reduced from 3.757p net to 2.244p, with a final of 0.757p.

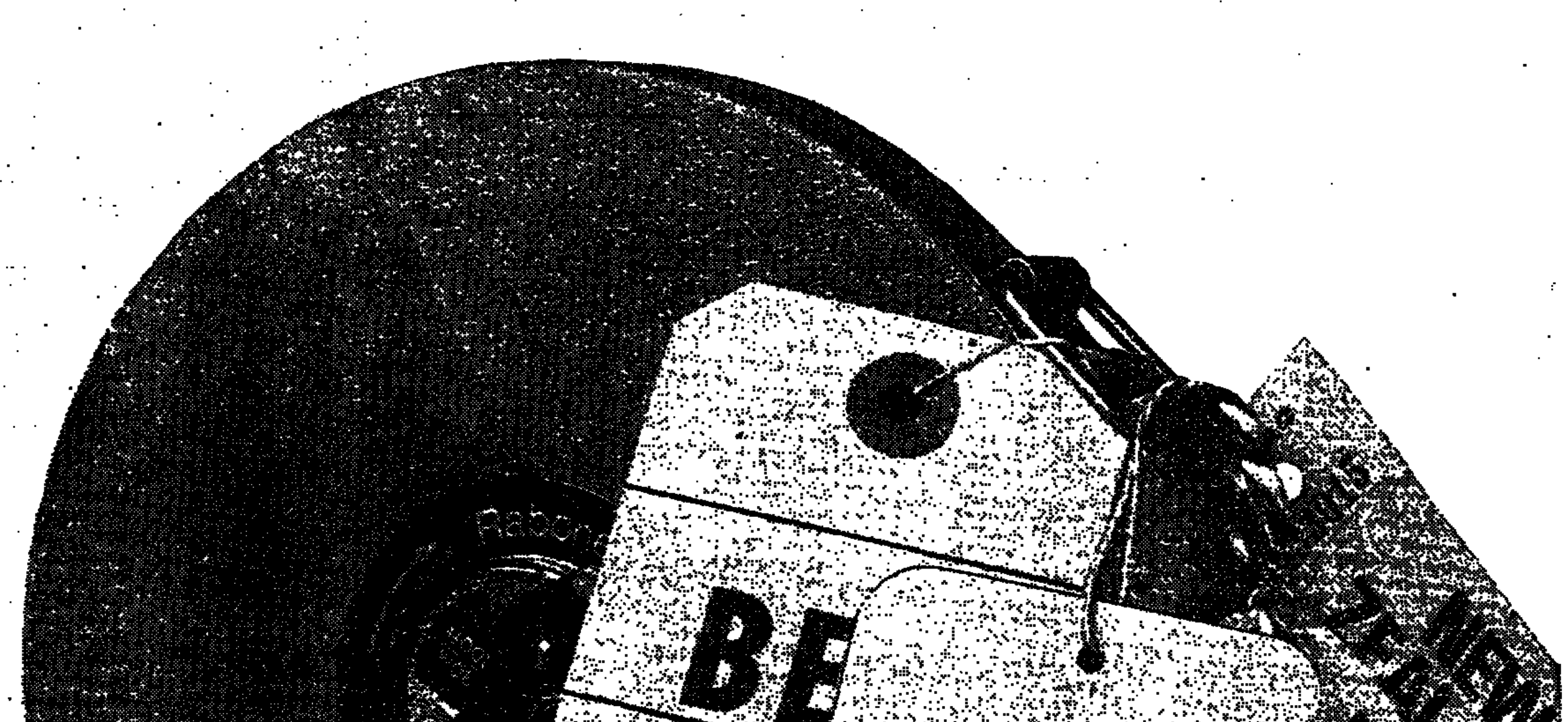
	1975 £000	1974 £000
Group turnover	14,682	14,100
Profit	408	629
Interest	494	445
Exceptional losses	254	—
Loss before tax	340	*184
Tax relief	122	†65
Net loss	218	*98
Extraordinary debits	280	102
Minorities	2	2
Attributable loss	498	5

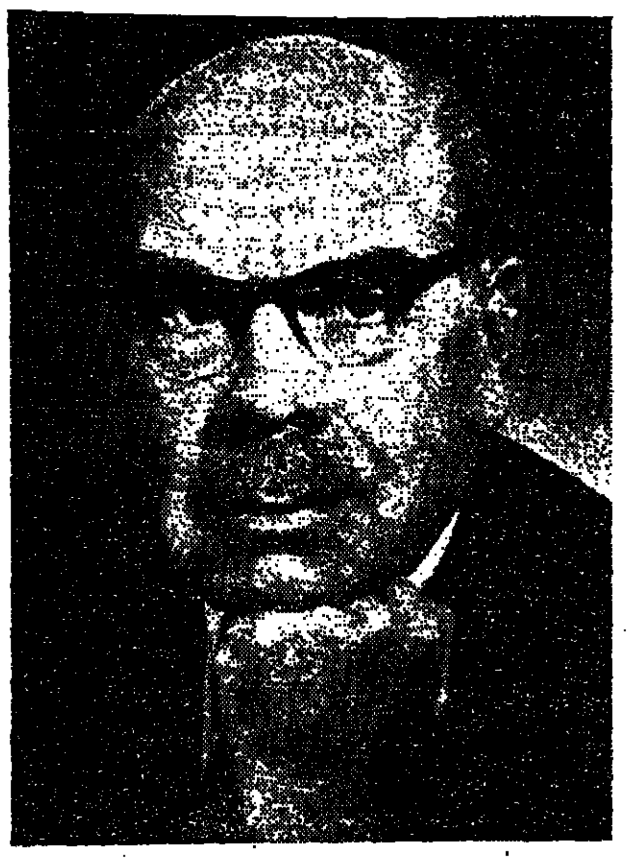
* Profit. † Charge.

GARTMORE CHARGES

Following a meeting of unitholders held on April 15, the Management Charges of Gartmore Income Fund have been altered. The initial Management Charge has been raised from 3½ per cent. to 5 per cent., and the annual service charge has been reduced from a ½ per cent. to ⅜ of 1 per cent. These changes take effect immediately.







RUGBY PORTLAND CEMENT

"So we end 1975 with an all-time record profit; with a very strong Balance Sheet and ample liquidity; and with our expansion for the future going ahead."

Sir Halford Reddish

The speech of the Chairman, Sir Halford Reddish, at the Annual General Meeting to be held on the 14th May 1976, which has been circulated with the Report, is as follows:

It is a pity that during the second half of 1974 we *had that slight set-back in our Group profit, due* mainly to the devaluation of the Australian dollar. But for that, 1975 would have been our 30th consecutive record year, topping the previous highest pre-tax profit of 1973 by some £370,000. So I am sure that you would wish me on behalf of the shareholders to extend to our partners, all who work in the Company, your warm congratulations on the success of *their efforts. My annual message to them is as* usual printed in the Report. [*Reproduced below*]

RECORD PROFIT

Our Group pre-tax profit for 1975 amounted to £11·3*m.* and that in a *year of continual frustra*tions and difficulties of one sort and another. Costs continued to increase and although three price rises for the Industry were allowed by the Price Commission during the year there is of necessity always a time lag.

But perhaps the most important event in this connection was the *re-establishment* of the Industry's common price policy on the 3rd *March. It was originally established in 1934 and* has been twice blessed by the Restrictive Practices Court as being in the interests of the consumer. It went into abeyance in 1973 under the original Price Code, but associations of the main groups of consumers wanted it to be restored just as much as the cement makers. The Code was *eventually amended to enable this* to happen.

I have always maintained that the time to expand a business is not during a boom, but during a slump. And this is particularly so in the case of a capital-intensive industry such as cement manufacture where expansion of a works must of necessity take quite a considerable time.

EXPANSION CONTINUING

So our plans for expansion have gone on through this period of recession.

The doubling of our South Ferriby works has been completed; and although production from *the new plant has not yet been required it is* ready for operation when it is needed.

Work on our Rochester expansion, and conversion from the wet to the semi-wet process, continues; we now confidently expect to receive detailed planning consent in the next few weeks. But it will be the Autumn of 1978 *before the new plant is finished.*

In Trinidad, where in spite of inflation and *increasing costs no increase in the price of* cement has been allowed by the Government for over seven years, with the exception of a small but quite inadequate one in January 1975, the results of our subsidiary, Trinidad Cement Ltd., for 1975 were only fractionally better. The reason for the Government's attitude is now clear. It is seeking to take over our Trinidad operation, but as negotiations are now in *progress I can say no more at the present time.*

In Australia there was considerable relief when the Whitlam Government was dismissed. The 1975 results of our subsidiary, Cockburn Cement Ltd., showed a substantial fall from those of 1974 as constructional work was increasingly restricted. The outlook is now *undoubtedly brighter, but in my view it will take* at least three years to get the country's *economy back on its feet again. Nevertheless,* we confidently expect better results from our subsidiary in 1976. My faith in the long-term future of Western Australia is undiminished.

THE CURRENT YEAR

Seventy-six per cent. of our Group turnover arose in the U.K. and accounted for approximately seventy-two per cent. of the Group's pre-tax profit. Earnings a share on the Ordinary shares were 7·7p in 1975 (against 7·5p in 1974) *and on the Participating (n/v) shares 3·3p* (against 3·0p).

The *interim dividends on both the Parent* Company's Ordinary and Participating (n/v) shares were raised by the maximum amount allowed under present legislation, and we propose that the final dividends should be similarly increased. This means a final of 1·473p on the Ordinary shares, making a total of 2·833p *for the year, and of 1·542p on the Participating* (n/v) shares, making a total of 2·412p.

So we end 1975 with an all-time record profit; with a very strong Balance Sheet and ample liquidity; and with our expansion for the future going ahead.

I turn now to the current year.

With the necessary restriction of Government expenditure to combat inflation and the effect that this is having, and will have for some time to come, on the constructional industries, it will *be surprising if there is not a further modest fall* in the U.K. demand for cement in 1976. On the *other hand, it now seems to be recognised, even* in present Government circles, that free enterprise industries must be allowed to make profits and that those profits are really almost the only source of an increase in the national wealth. So I am not unduly pessimistic about our results for 1976.

MORAL DECAY

I have held for some years the view that our difficulties in this country are more moral than economic and that we have got to get back to the old ethical standards if we are to avoid economic collapse. Yet alarming instances of our departure from the old morality continue to multiply.

For example: under the Remuneration, Charges and Grants Act 1975 an employer is *encouraged – by grant of immunity from the* legal consequences – to break a contract with an employee relating to remuneration in so far as implementation of that contract would be outside the counter-inflation policy document laid before Parliament in July 1975. If sanctity of contract is not upheld in the highest quarters then sooner or later the whole fabric of our civilisation must fall apart.

And *listen to this. An employee of a public* body was charged with the theft of money from *a club bar where he helped out in his spare time.* He informed his superiors what had happened and his employment was later terminated. The Industrial Tribunal (Chairman, R. H. Boyers) dismissed his complaint of unfair dismissal, saying – apparently in support of its decision – that the employee had been given an opportunity *to apply for another position with the Council where the quality of honesty would not be an important consideration.* Yes, this was in England in 1975!

When hospital staffs in breach of their agreements decline to give service to patients things have come to a pretty pass.

These are but examples of the moral decay which is penetrating almost all sides of our *national life.*

When support for the closed shop can be *found in all political parties it almost seems as if* the inhabitants of what was once Great Britain are apathetically content to see their liberties steadily eroded. We have recently seen *newspaper compositors refusing to set an article* of which they disapproved. If the freedom of the press goes it can be but a small step to a totalitarian state and the complete loss of such liberties as are still left to us.

CALL TO LEADERSHIP

This rapidly deteriorating state of affairs is indeed a call to leadership, remembering that this old country, in Ruskin's ringing phrase, is "rich in an inheritance of honour bequeathed to us through a thousand years of noble history".

In words which I borrow from the other side *of the Atlantic, we in industry must work for* "a union not of parchment but of men's hearts and minds".

We must at all levels have a true understanding of the meaning and dignity of work; an impulse of urgency and initiative and adventure in our industries; and amongst the leaders in all *walks of life a recognition of the fact that to lead* is not a privilege but an honour and a trust.

Only then shall we have in our industrial and social life that love of the job, that pride in achievement, that sense of personal fulfilment, that faith in ourselves and our future, which will bring to this old country the abiding progress *and prosperity which even today are still within* our reach.

This is the last Annual General Meeting at which I shall preside as Chairman, for I feel that *the time is approaching when I should hand* over the Chairmanship of our Company. *I therefore intend before long to announce a* date for my retirement effective not later than the end of the year; but I have been asked to continue a close connection with the Company in an advisory capacity.

A BACKWARD GLANCE

In these circumstances perhaps I may be forgiven if I cast a brief nostalgic look over the *more than 43 years during which I have been* responsible for the management and the day to day running of the Company.

You may be interested to know that the original business out of which our Group has grown began in 1825. Much of its early history is lost in the mists of antiquity, but it was a private business owned by one family until the present *Company was registered as a private company* in 1925. I was asked to join the Board in 1929.

When I took over the management on the death of the then General Manager in January 1933 we had the one small works near Rugby, with an annual output capacity of only 30,000 tons of cement. At that time the Industry in the *U.K. consisted of quite a large number of* comparatively small works and Rugby was *amongst the smallest. The Industry was going* through a very bad time, with almost all the works shut down in the Winter as was the practice in those days, and naturally almost all the work-force was laid off. We got our works going again in the Spring and we struggled through 1933 to end with a profit of about *£1,500.*

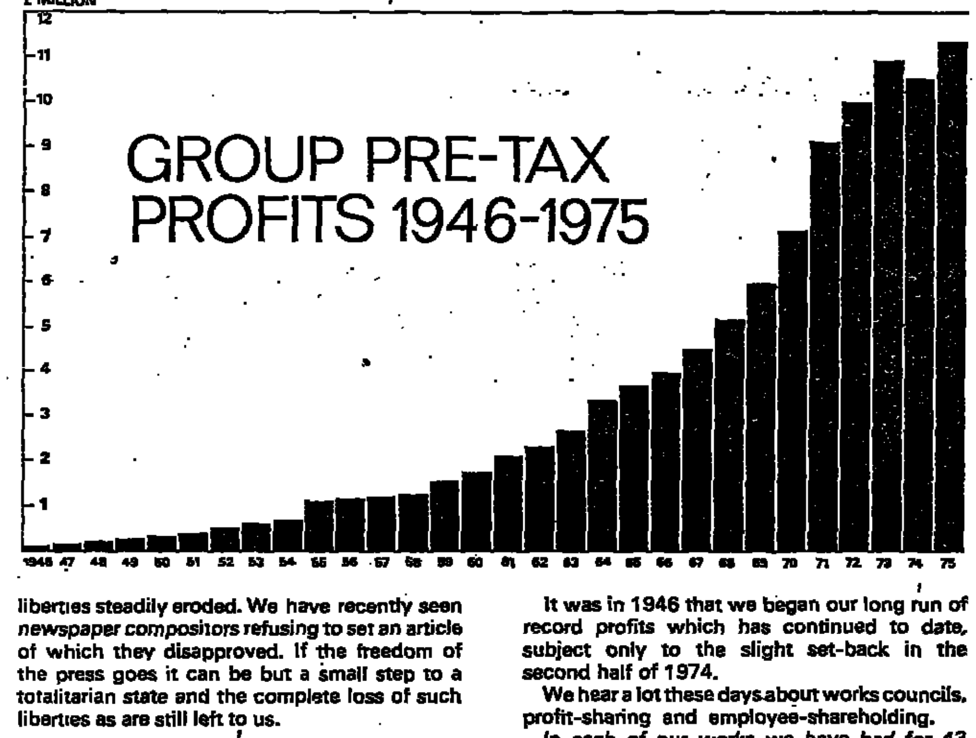
The Company was converted into a public company in 1935.

Now we have seven cement works in the U.K., with chalk quarries in Bedfordshire, and two works overseas.

THE HARVARD CASE-STUDY

In 1959 two professors of the famous business school at Harvard University did a case-study of our Company and of our philosophy of *management. The study is still being used at* Harvard and at many other universities throughout the United States and other countries in the English-speaking world, and in a business school in Switzerland where the year's course is conducted in English.

In 1963 we received the first authorisation to be issued under the *Pipe-lines Act 1962*, which enabled us to pump a chalk slurry from our *quarries near Dunstable 57 miles to our* two works in Warwickshire, thus cutting their costs *of production. Representatives of many cement* companies in different parts of the world have come to study the operation.



It was in 1946 that we began our long run of record profits which has continued to date, subject only to the slight set-back in the second half of 1974.

We hear a lot these days about works councils, profit-sharing and employee-shareholding.

In each of our works we have had for 43 years an elected works committee which meets *regularly each month with a senior official from* Head Office being present, thus forming a *continuous line of two-way communication* throughout the organisation.

For 41 years we have had a profit-sharing scheme linked to the Ordinary dividend and for 22 years a unique employee-shareholding scheme, both emphasising the partnership which exists between the shareholders and *the employees.*

Some people seem to think that I advocate such schemes as a means of promoting goodwill, of building up confidence, as a panacea for all our industrial ills. Nothing could be further from the truth.

HUMAN RELATIONS

Such schemes will succeed only if they are built on a firm foundation of confidence and goodwill. That must come first. I am quite sure that goodwill, loyalty, esprit-de-corps, cannot be bought for cash: they are a by-product of good human relations.

We in Rugby Cement have never thought in terms of 'industrial' relations nor of 'labour' relations. We prefer *human* relations – a recognition of the essential human dignity of the individual.

For, after all, the efficiency, the good name, the prestige, the progress, of any business depend in the final analysis, not on the magnificence of its plant, not on the splendour of its offices, but on the spirit of the men and women, the human beings, who are working together in *that business and whose lives are bound up with* its success.

The most valuable asset in any company's balance sheet is one written in invisible ink. If you could see it, it would read something like this:

"The loyalty, the efficiency, the capacity for work of all employed in the company, their pride in the job and in the company's achievements, and their joy in having a part in *those achievements*".

As far as Rugby Cement is concerned, I *can* see it – and I hope you will take my word for it.

I think I can claim that throughout these 40-odd years we have been a happy Company, proud of our steady growth. I sincerely hope that it may continue that way in the years to come.

I conclude by expressing my gratitude for the confidence and support which I have received from our shareholders for so many years.

The following is the Chairman's message to his fellow-workers referred to above:

But for the slight set-back in the second half of 1974, due mainly to the devaluation of the Australian dollar, 1975 would have been our 30th consecutive record year. In other words, it has produced our all-time record profit, of which we can all be proud.

Our partners, the shareholders, have provided us with another £3,701,689 additional capital *in the form of undistributed profits from our* 1975 operations.

The increase in both the Ordinary and Participating (n/v) dividends is the maximum which we are allowed to distribute. The dividend on the Ordinary shares will of course be reflected in the profit-sharing bonus, while the increase in the Participating (n/v) shares will be generally welcomed.

A COMING CHANGE

As you will have seen in my speech to the shareholders, the coming Annual General *Meeting will be the last over which I shall* preside as Chairman.

It is now over 43 years *since I took charge of* the day to day operations of the Company, which in those days consisted of one small works at Rugby. I had hoped that I would be the "oldest inhabitant" before I retired, but three old friends, Jackie Horn, Charlie Flavell and Sid Sutton were there in 1933 and they are still *there. They, I am sure, will remember that in* those far-off days it was the practice for most of the cement works in the U.K. to shut down for a number of weeks in the Winter, and at that time the Industry was going through a very difficult period; and my three colleagues will also remember that when we got the works going again in the early part of 1933 I said that in future everyone would have a full year's work, that *there would be no lay-offs.* Now we have seven cement plants in this country, and our *quarries in Bedfordshire, and from that day to* this not one man has been laid-off.

LOYALTY

I have always maintained that loyalty should be a two-way traffic. I have done my best to be loyal to each of you; and it is a matter of great happiness to me that I have enjoyed the loyalty of my fellow-employees throughout these 43 years.

Here are a few lines which have given me some help from time to time in my long life. In these difficult days for our country they surely *have a message which should appeal to every* one of us. (The author is unknown.)

When your world's about to fall
And your back's against the wall,
When you're facing wild retreat and utter rout;
When it seems that nought can stop it,
All your pleas and plans can't stop it,
Get a grip upon yourself and—stick it out!

Any craven fool can quit,
But a man with pluck and grit
Will hold until the very final shout;
In the snarling teeth of sorrow
He will laugh and say: 'Tomorrow
The luck will change ... I guess,
I'll stick it out'.

So you, when things go wrong,
And you think you can't last long,
That you've got to quit nor wait the final bout;
Smile, smile at your beholders,
Clench your teeth and square your shoulders,
And fight! You'll win if you will but stick it out.

A FINE TEAM

I am proud to have been the leader for so long of a very fine team. To my mind, leadership is *mainly a question of example and we have tried* to instil this principle throughout the entire Company from top to bottom. *After all, in a* very real sense the leader is the servant of the led and it is in that belief that I have regarded my relationship to all of you throughout the years you have been working with me.

So this is my last annual message. I do not disguise the fact that when I hand over the Chairmanship of our Company later in the year it will be a great wrench, but of course it had *to come some day. I can but hope that those* who follow after me will continue what I am bold enough to call the *Rugby tradition.* We have been a happy as well as a successful Company.

From the bottom of my heart I am grateful for the support and loyalty that I have enjoyed through all these years. May you and Rugby Cement go on from strength to strength.

THE RUGBY PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY LTD.

CROWN HOUSE, RUGBY

MINING NEWS

Mary Kathle share dispute

BY KENNETH MARSTON, MINING EDITOR

AUSTRALIA'S Kathleen Investments has started legal proceedings against the Government-owned Australian Atomic Energy Commission disputing its right to own shares in the uranium-producing *Mary Kathleen Uranium*, reports our Sydney correspondent. At present, MKU is 51 per cent. controlled by Rio Tinto-Zinc's Australian offshoot Conzinc Rio*tinto of Australia* and 42 per cent. by the AAEC.

Kathleen Investments held a 35 per cent. interest in MKU until late-1974 when the company made a $17m. *rights issue to raise funds* to bring its Mary Kathleen uranium mine back into production. At the time the share market would not support the issue largely because of investor uncertainty caused by a Government ban on uranium companies negotiating export contracts.

MKU had already obtained approval to export 4,743 tonnes of uranium oxide when the former Whitlam Labor Government came to office late in 1972 but was blocked from writing contracts for its remaining reserves of 2,000 tonnes. The company had at that stage apparently arranged loan *funds to re-open the mine but the* lenders withdrew after the export ban. The Government refused to *allow CRA to underwrite the issue* and decided instead, that the AAEC would be the underwriter.

Kathleen Investments was unable to find the $5.9m. needed to take up its entitlement. The result was that the AAEC picked up the shortfall and ended up with a 42 per cent. stake *in MKU* while Kathleen Investments' interest dropped to 2.7 per cent.

When the Liberal National Country party came to office last December it was announced the AAEC holdings would be sold back to Australian hands. Kath*leen Investments apparently sug*gested the shares should be sold back to it at issue price, plus interest. In the intervening period, however, the price of the shares has risen and the Government would stand to make a profit of about $12m. if it could sell *the holding at around market* levels.

Apparently failing to receive a satisfactory response, Kathleen Investments has now served a writ on the AAEC and is joining MKU as a co-defendant. The company wants a High Court hearing *to have the shares* issued to the AAEC declared invalid because it claims the commission is not *legally* empowered to hold shares.

W. RAND CONS. IN NUCLEAR AGE

Once a leading South African producer of uranium, the veteran West Rand Consolidated resumed uranium operations last quarter after a year's pause and is expected to attain a *full production* of 70,000 tons of the ore a month in the current quarter.

Yesterday's Johannesburg meeting was cheered by the chairman's comment that the company should have additional uranium for sale at the now buoyant world prices once it *is* satisfied that *it* can meet obligations to long-term contracts. He added that this year's commitments can be met from stockpile but it is insufficient *to cope with commitments* thereafter.

Questioned on indicated ore reserves, he said that if the average uranium oxide yield were lowered to 0.25 kilograms per ton, about 2.3m. tons of ore are currently available. But development is *planned* to expose additional tonnages. In addition, West Rand has gold ore reserves of about 2m. tons grading 6.2 grams gold per ton and 1.3m. tonnes at 7.3 grams. The shares advanced 30p further to 190p yesterday, having risen 48p last week.

URANIUM SEARCH

The Quebec Government's Hydro-Quebec power agency together with the Soquem exploration arm
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BIDS AND DEALS

Hutchison offer fo First Finsbury

John D. Hutchison (U.K.), a subsidiary of Hutchison International, the Hong Kong finance and trading group, is to acquire the *24.88 per cent. of First Finsbury Trust* which it does not already own for a cash consideration of £781,000, or 35p per share.

FFT's preliminary results for 1975 show pre-tax profits of £569,000 (£869,000) on a turnover down from £11.35m. to £10.96m. *The profits have been struck after* property provisions of £206,000.

Although sales of subsidiaries engaged *in importing* consumer and finished leather products increased compared with the previous year, in total they achieved lower net profits. The *leather and textile merchanting* subsidiaries suffered a significant reduction in turnover and net profit compared with 1974.

Sales for the first three months of 1976 have shown an improvement. However, the further reduction in the value of sterling *has inevitably had* an adverse effect on profit margins.

133,852 shares
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SCOTTISH TRUSTS MERGER TERMS

It is anticipated that meetings of the holders of each class of share and loan capital of the Scottish Investment Trust and Second Scottish Investment Trust will be held on June 24 to approve the necessary resolutions in respect of the merger. In the report on the merger terms of April 14 the date of the meetings was inadvertently given as April 24.

ASSOCIATES DEALS

The sale of Lonrho old and new shares—since the bid for Lubok Investments on March 3—totalling 146,285 shares at prices between 94p and 104p are announced. The sales were made between March 15 and April 15 and were all on behalf of "Slater Walker account client."

Sales of Lubok shares totalling

H. BALLA

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ENT ISSUES

EQUITIES

Renunc. Date	1976 High	1976 Low	Stock	Closing Price	+ or −	Dividend Amount	Times covered	Gross Yield	P/E Ratio
—	£23	£21⅞	Berry Pacific Fd. U.S.$	£21⅞	−1⅛	40c	—	3.5	—
—	$10,500	$8,600	Brasilvest S.A.	$9,500	......	—	—	—	—
4	85	82½	Elgin Inv. Tst.	84½	......	3.6	1.1	7.2	21.4
—	£16¾	£14½	I.C. Inds.	£15	+⅝	$1.50	—	4.6	—
—	£22¾	£21⅛	Tenneco Inc. $5	£21⅜	......	Q$1.40	—	4.0	—

Ultramar 7% Con. Red. Pref. See Fixed Interest Stocks below

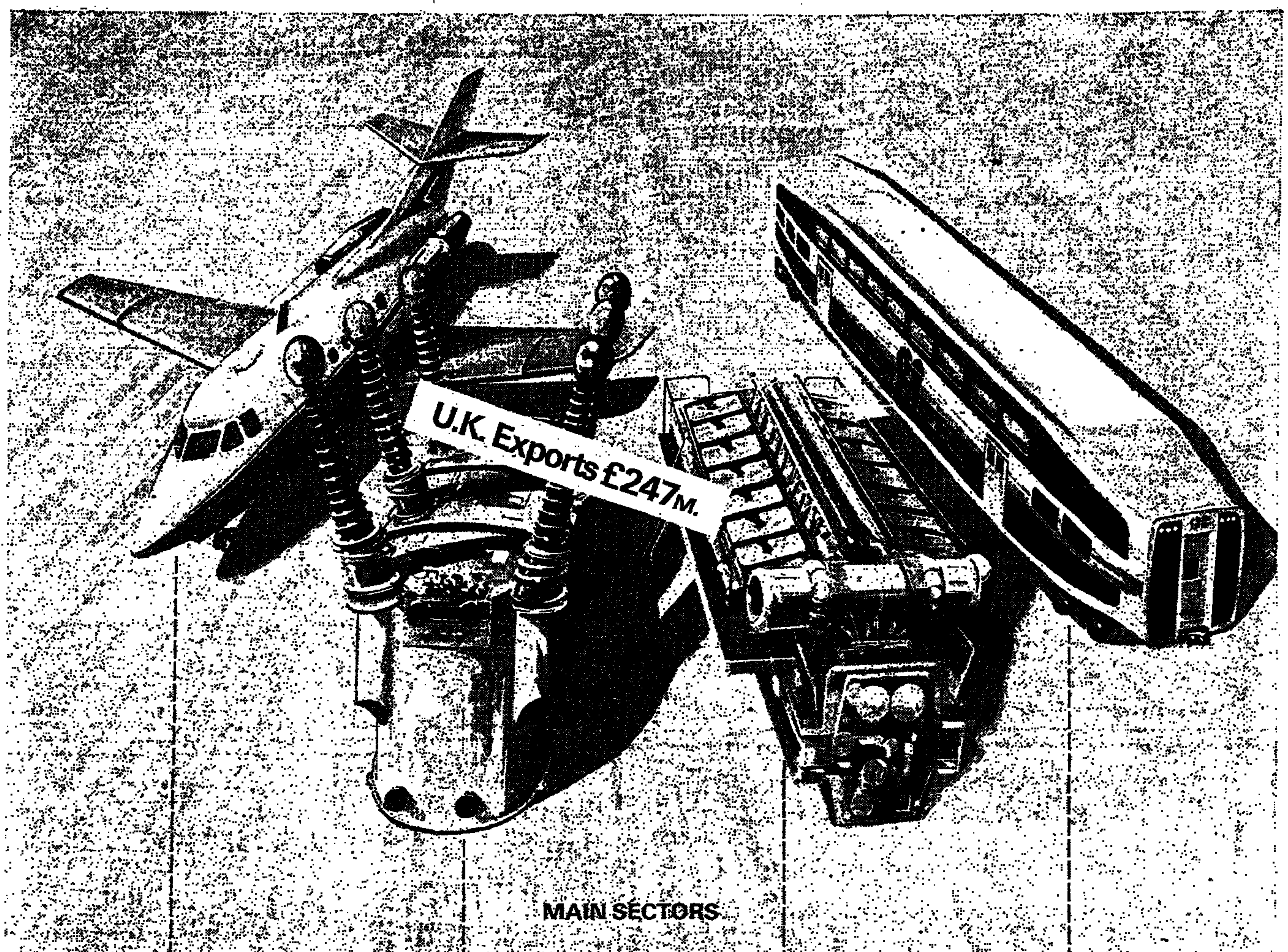
FIXED INTEREST STOCKS

Latest Renunc. Date	1976 High	1976 Low	Stock	Closing Price	+ or −
4	104	95	Arbuthnot Lath. 8% Conv. Uns. 1998	98	......
—	$100	$99½	Banque Canadienne Nat. 9¼% Deb. 1982	C$99¾	......
—	$100	$100	Barclays Bk. Intl. 9¼% Cap. Notes 1980	$100	......
—	$99	$99	Brascan Int. Cap Corp 9¾% Guar Notes 1982	$99	......
—	101½	101½	Chester Water 8% Red. Pref. 1981	101½pm	......
—	103¼	101½	East Worcs. Water 8% Red. Pref. 1981	102pm	+¼
4	101	99½	External Inv. Trust Convertible Ln. 1993	100	......
—	40¼	38¾	ICC 12¾% 1985	40¼	......
4	½	¼	Investermans Cum. Ptg. Pref.	¼pm	......
5	101¾	100¾	Hartlepools Water 9% Red. Pref. 1981	103½	......
6	87½	85	Howard & Wyndham 10% Uns. Loan 1976-91	87½	......
—	99¼	96½	IAG 9½% Notes 1981	$96½	......
—	$100¼	$99¾	Manitoba 9½% Deb. 1985	$99¾	......
—	$101½	$99½	Midland Bk. Float Cap. Notes 1985	$101½	......
8	100	99¼	Mid-Sussex Water 8% Red Prf. 1981	99¾	......
—	101½	99¾	Norway 8¾% Notes 1982	101	......
7/4	1⅛p	⅛p	Penrod 10% Conv. Red. Pref. (With Warrants)	⅛pm	......
—	100	100	Royal Bank of Scotland Floating Rate 1983	$100	......
—	98½	98½	Royal Tst. Mort. Corp. 9¾ Deb. 1981	98½	......
—	100½	100½	Sandvik 9½% Bonds 1986	$100½	......
7	74	68	Scot. Met. ⅞ Conv. ...	69	+1
—	102¼	98½	Seagram Property 9% Notes 1983	$101¼	......
5	99⅞	99¼	Sutton Dist. Water 8% Prf. 1981	99¾	......
—	2⅛p	⅛p	Ultramar 7% Con. Red. Pref.	5	+2

"RIGHTS" OFFERS

	Latest Renunc. Date	1976 High	1976 Low	Stock	Closing Price p	+ or −
—	15/4	79	71	Allen(E) Balfour	77	......
—	—	24	16	BICC	24pm	+1
3	7/5	151	135½	Blackwood Hodge	146	+1½
4	30/4	65½	60½	Cement Roadstone	61½	......
6	15/4	35½	31	Concentric	31	......
3	13/4	128½	114	Coral (J.)	121	......
4	21/5	250	214	De La Rue	250	+5
3	30/4	47	38	Dennis (J.H.)	43	+2
4	11/6	94	56	Dew (G.)	94	+1
4	14/5	66	53	Diploma Invs.	54	......
—	—	14	13½	Era Inds.	14pm	......
4	7/5	395	351	Fisons	393	+6
4	7/5	168	140½	Gill & Duffus	168	......
3	30/4	108	88	Hoffnung (S.)	106	+5
3	30/4	59	56½	Imperial Metal Inds.	56	+½
4	18/6	63	61	Jacob (W. & R.)	62	−1
4	7/5	77	60½	Letraset Intnl.	77	+1
3	20/7	70	64	Lloyd (F.H.)	69½	+1
3	23/4	246	210	Lloyds Bank	232	+4
—	—	11	7	Lyons (J.) "A"	9pm	+1
3	26/4	25½	21	Mitchell Somers	22	......
4	19/5	25	19	Parker Timber	25pm	......
4	14/6	18½	17	Raine Engineering	17½	......
4	3/6	58	49½	Rolls-Royce Motors	58	+1
—	—	28	19	Rotork	26pm	+7
—	—	3	3	Southern Construction	3pm	......
4	28/5	55	47	Staflex Int.	49	+½
3	22/4	398	362	Standard Chartered	390	......
2	25/6	106	92½	Stenhouse Hldgs.	106	+4
4	30/4	108	93	Taverner, Rutledge	103	+3
—	—	42	37	Taylor Woodrow	40pm	......
5	14/4	64	51	Tridex Industries	56	......
4	8/6	10	5½	Trust Houses Forte	9½pm	+1½
5	11/6	164	140	Turner & Newall	164	+4
3	12/5	56½	47	Ward (T. W.)	56½	+1
3	20/4	14	12	Wheway Watson	11½	......
—	—	61	57	Westwhite-Burmah	59	−1
4	14/5	59	77½	Youghal Carpets	89	+6

n date usually last day for dealing free of stamp duty. a Placing ... h Figures based on prospectus estimate. d Dividend rate paid or ...art capital, cover based on dividend on full capital. ... Pence ...se indicated. u Forecast dividend; cover based on previous year's ...figures based on prospectus or other official estimate for 1976. ...med. ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking ...or ranking only for restricted dividends. ** Issued by tender. ...olders of Ordinary shares as a "rights." ♥ 280 S.Afr. cents. ☆ Rights ...italisation. ¶ Tender allotment price. ◆ Reintroduced. ‡‡ Issued in ...h reorganisation, merger or take-over. ♣ Introduction. ♠ Issued to ...ence holders. ‡ Allotment letters for fully-paid. † Provisional or ...tment letters. ≤ With warrants.



MAIN SECTORS

£243M. SALES
AEROSPACE ENGINEERING
Hawker Siddeley Aviation and Hawker Siddeley Dynamics together form one of the leading aircraft, missile and space satellite manufacturers in the world. Hunter, Trident, HS 125, HS 748, Harrier and Hawk are household names. Hawker de Havilland Australia is prominent in aviation, defence and marine fields.

£215M. SALES
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING
Hawker Siddeley is a large manufacturer of industrial electrical equipment. The product range includes electric motors, generators, transformers, switchgear, batteries, cables and instruments, manufactured by famous companies such as Brush, Brook, Crompton and South Wales Switchgear.

£196M. SALES
MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND METALS
Listers, Petters and Mirrlees Blackstone, Hawker Siddeley companies, are major manufacturers of industrial and marine diesels. High Duty Alloys is a substantial manufacturer of aluminium castings, forgings and extrusions. Other Hawker Siddeley engineering activities include water engineering, building construction and aircraft refuellers.

£175M. SALES
HAWKER SIDDELEY CANADA – MECHANICAL ENGINEERING
Hawker Siddeley has a 59% participation in Hawker Siddeley Canada, one of that country's major engineering companies. The divisions manufacture rail and road transport equipment, oil rigs, mining and woodlands equipment, castings and forgings and transmission towers.

Hawker Siddeley manufactures in:—United Kingdom · Canada · United States · Australia · South Africa · India · South America—World-wide sales and service.

HAWKER SIDDELEY 1975

The 1975 Annual Report, which will be posted to shareholders on 21st May, 1976 will include the following comments in the Directors' Report:—

Results
The total Group profit for 1975, after taxation and minority interests, amounts to £30.2m (1974: £27.4m), which comprises:—

	1975 £m	1974 £m
Group excluding Hawker Siddeley Canada	26.6	25.0
Hawker Siddeley Canada	3.6	2.4
	£30.2m	£27.4m

Trading profits are analysed as follows:—

	1975 £m	1974 £m
Group excluding Hawker Siddeley Canada		
Aerospace engineering	22.5	21.1
Electrical engineering	18.9	11.7
Mechanical engineering and Metals	17.4	13.0
	£58.8m	£45.8m
Hawker Siddeley Canada		
Mechanical engineering	£15.1m	£11.3m

Extraordinary Items
There is an extraordinary profit of £8.3m, not included in the Group profit after taxation, which is mainly attributable to an exchange profit arising on conversion into sterling of overseas net assets and the release of a provision for taxation not now required relating to a prior year extraordinary item.

Financing
At 31st December, 1975, bank loans, overdrafts and acceptance credits, less credit balances, of the Group excluding Hawker Siddeley Canada amounted to £34.8m (1974: £5.9m).

At 31st December, 1975 net bank borrowings of Hawker Siddeley Canada were £6.5m (1974: £14.4m).

Comments
Although 1975 was a year of recession in world markets, total demand for Group output was at a high level, helped by the spread of engineering products of high technical quality which we are able to offer, coupled with a strong worldwide selling capability. There were areas of difficulty – for example, products particularly dependent on the British home market found a poor demand, reflecting the special problems of the UK economy, and in Canada the serious recession in the forest product industries created problems. In Australia home demand was depressed, but our growing export trade from that country eased some of the difficulties. We were able to offset some of these problems by rapid switching of production and of selling effort. Generally, demand was particularly good for equipment associated with power generation and with rail transport. The overall result was the highest yet achieved by the Group, as was the UK export value, and the proportion of UK built products which were exported.

Working capital increased during the year. While this in part reflects the effect of inflation on the value of stock and work in progress in a setting of increased volume of trading, the greater part of the cash absorption was in the aerospace sector, in which production programmes were in the cash-demanding stage of their normal cycle.

The Aircraft and Shipbuilding Industries Bill, which, if passed, would bring about the nationalisation of the Company's UK aerospace subsidiaries, Hawker Siddeley Aviation Limited and Hawker Siddeley Dynamics Limited, is proceeding through its Parliamentary stages. The timing of the proposed change of ownership is not known but there are indications that this may occur in the second half of 1976.

The 1975 trading profit attributable to the UK aerospace interests is £21m and the corresponding profit after charging interest and taxation is £8.5m.

There is now little managerial or technical dependence between the aerospace companies and the rest of the Group's operations. The sound situation of the electrical and the mechanical engineering businesses will be evident from the figures. They are expected to continue to offer opportunities for extension both of market and product spread.

The Group purchased in December 1975 36% of the common stock of Onan Corporation, a company based in the USA, at a cost of $36m. With the exception of a very small number of shares, the rest of the stock is held by Studebaker-Worthington, Inc. Onan is a company trading in electric generators and petrol and diesel engines. The turnover in 1975 was $128m, and its profit after taxation was $9.5m. It has two major factories in the USA and a subsidiary company in Brazil.

Onan has taken a licence from Petters for diesel engine design and technology.

1975 was in many ways a difficult year, setting serious problems for those who work in the Group at all levels and in all parts of the world. Trying to cope with the effects of inflation – especially in the UK – in a setting of depressed world trade was not an easy task. There are no substitutes for professionalism, for skill and effort, and for enthusiastic and determined drive, or for the taking of carefully assessed risks. To all those who have so well contributed to the efforts of the Group in these various ways, the Board expresses its thanks and obligation.

1975 Results

Financial highlights

	1975 £m	1974 £m
Sales		
Group excluding Hawker Siddeley Canada	654	497
Hawker Siddeley Canada	175	140
	829	637
Exports (included in sales)		
Direct exports from the United Kingdom 44.4% of UK sales (1974: 41.9%)	247	171
Trading Profit		
Group excluding Hawker Siddeley Canada	58.8	45.8
Hawker Siddeley Canada	15.1	11.3
	73.9	57.1
Profit after Taxation and minority interests		
Group excluding Hawker Siddeley Canada	26.6	25.0
Hawker Siddeley Canada	3.6	2.4
	30.2	27.4
Earnings per Ordinary Share	62.8p	56.9p
Dividend per Ordinary Share		
Interim	6.1362p	5.7500p
Recommended final	7.1661p	6.5146p

Including the imputed tax credit, the equivalent total gross dividend paid or recommended for 1975 is 20.4650p (1974: 18.6046p) and represents an increase of 10% compared with 1974. This is the maximum permitted under the Counter-Inflation legislation.

HAWKER SIDDELEY GROUP LIMITED

18 St. James's Square, London, SW1Y 4LJ. 01-930 6177

For a copy of the Annual Report please apply after 24th May to the Secretary.

Annual General Meeting – The Dorchester Hotel, Park Lane, London, W1A 2HJ, Wednesday, 16th June, 1976 at 12 noon.

Linread LIMITED

INTERIM REPORT – HALF YEAR TO JANUARY 1976

- Group Trading Profit and Income, before depreciation and interest, fell sharply by comparison with both halves of the year to July, 1975.
- Severe set-back in demand by U.K. customers of Commercial Products Division in consumer durable and motor vehicle industries. Heavy starting-up costs incurred in large expansion project at Peterlee.
- Aircraft Products Division, Engineering Division, Linread-Fabco Ltd. and all overseas operations traded profitably.
- Group Trading Profit and Income, before depreciation and interest, could reach £725,000 for the year providing consumer durable expenditure is stimulated, as expected in the period March to July, 1976 by V.A.T. reductions in the U.K. and other influences in Australia and Canada. This would produce a break-even result at the earnings level.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS (£'000)	JAN. 1976	JAN. 1975
External Sales	4,695	4,353
Trading Profit and Unfranked Income	111	445
Profit (Loss) before tax and Extraordinary Items	(227)	196
Attributable earnings (Losses)	(92)	108
Basic earnings per share (5,354,021 Shares)	(1.72p)	2.02p

Manufacturers of
Specialised fastener systems for the aerospace, consumer durable, automotive and building industries

BIRMINGHAM · ENGLAND

Chancellor details stock relief measures

IN HIS Budget, Mr. Denis Healey proposed a continuation of tax relief on increases in the value of stock in trade and work in progress. In the Finance Bill, published last week, the proposals concerning tax relief show that it is to be available for all businesses, whether carried on by companies, partnerships or sole traders. The amount of the relief for each period of account will be the amount of the increase in the value of stock in trade over that period, less 15 per cent. of trading income, after deduction of capital allowances, for that same period.

The main differences between this further relief and the provisions which it follows are:

a the profits restriction is 15 per cent. of trading income after deduction of capital allowances, instead of 10 per cent. before;

b the relief is calculated for each period of account separately—that is, by reference only to the circumstances of that period:

c the relief is to be given by means of a deduction from profits, instead of (as in the previous two years) a deemed reduction in closing stock values.

The relief remains a deferral of tax, and not a permanent reduction in liability. Should stock value decrease in any period, an adjustment is to be made to the tax profits or losses in order to recover an amount of the past relief equal to the amount of the decrease. The adjustment will, however, never exceed the amount of the past relief which has been accumulated, under both these new provisions and as previously enacted.

In the following examples of how the relief works a company is assumed to make up its accounts regularly to December 31 each year.

1 The opening book value of a company's stock at January 1, 1975 (ignoring any reduction under Paragraph 6(2)(b) of Schedule 10 Finance (No. 2) Act 1975) is £160,000, and the closing stock value at December 31, 1975 is £200,000. The company's trading income after capital allowances is £100,000.

The increase in value of the company's stock is £200,000 less £160,000 = £40,000, and the company is therefore entitled to stock relief for the year of £40,000 less 15 per cent. of £100,000 (i.e. £15,000) = £25,000.

2 The opening and closing values of the company's stock for the year to December 31, 1975 are as in example 1 but the company's trading income for the year after capital allowances is £300,000.

No stock relief is due for the year, since 15 per cent. of the company's trading income (i.e. £45,000) exceeds the increase in the value of the company's trading stock during the year (£40,000). (There is, of course, no recovery of past relief, since a recovery of relief occurs only when stock values fall during a period.)

3 The book values of a company's stocks since 1973 have moved as follows:

Book value of stock Dec. 31	1972	£200,000
" "	1973	£180,000
" "	1974	£170,000
" "	1975	£190,000

The company's trading profits after capital allowances for the year to December 31, 1975 are £50,000.

Under the provisions of Section 18 Finance Act 1975 and Schedule 10 Finance (No. 2) Act 1975, the company was not entitled to claim stock relief for the years to December 31, 1973 and December 31, 1974 since the value of its stock fell in those years. However, for the year to December 31, 1975 there was an increase in stock value of £20,000 (£190,000 less £170,000), and the company is therefore entitled for relief of £20,000 less 15 per cent of £50,000 (i.e. £7,500) = £12,500.

4 The company has claimed stock relief under Schedule 10 Finance (No. 2) Act 1975 amounting to £80,000. However, during the year to December 31, 1975 the book value of its stock falls from £300,000 to £290,000. £10,000 of the relief previously granted is treated as a trading receipt. There remains unrecovered past relief of £70,000.

COMPANY NOTICES

GOLD FIELDS GROUP

WATERVAL (RUSTENBURG) PLATINUM MINING COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND No. 49 —UNITED KINGDOM CURRENCY EQUIVALENT

In accordance with the Standard Conditions relating to the payment of Dividend No. 49 declared on 30 March 1976 payments from the office of the United Kingdom Registrar will be made in United Kingdom currency at the rate of exchange of R1.611455 South African currency to £1 United Kingdom currency, this being the first available rate of exchange for remittances between the Republic of South Africa and the United Kingdom on 20 April 1976 as advised by the Company's South African bankers.

The United Kingdom currency equivalent of Dividend No. 49 of 2.60 cents per share is therefore 1.61345p per share.

By Order of the Board,
C. E. WENNER,
H. J. GREEN,
Joint London Secretaries.

London Office:
49 Moorgate,
London EC2R 6BQ.
United Kingdom Registrar:
Lloyds Bank Limited
Registrar's Department,
Goring-by-Sea,
Worthing,
West Sussex BN12 6DA.
20 April 1976.

DE BEERS CONSOLIDATED MINES LIMITED
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)

DEFERRED DIVIDEND No 112

Further to the dividend notice advertised in the Press on the 10th March, 1976, the conversion rate applicable to payments in United Kingdom currency in respect of the abovementioned dividend is £1 = R1.610408 equivalent to 12.41920p per share.

The effective rate of South African Non-Resident Shareholders' Tax is 15 per cent.

For and on behalf of
ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION OF SOUTH AFRICA LIMITED
London Secretaries
D. H. J. PATTISON

London Office:
40, Holborn Viaduct,
EC1P 1AJ.
Office of the United Kingdom transfer secretaries:
Charter Consolidated Limited,
P.O. Box 102,
Charter House,
Park Street,
Ashford, Kent.
TN24 8EQ.
20th April, 1976.

GIBBONS DUDLEY Limited

Refractories, Building Products, Engineering, Industrial Estates

1975 Profits increased by 46%

SUMMARY OF RESULTS	1975 £'000	1974 £'000
Sales	28,596	22,474
Profits	2,541	1,741
Dividends per share	3.00p	2.86p
Earnings per share	9.56p	6.16p
Assets per share	159.94p	147.33p

In his annual statement, the Chairman, Mr. Roger D. Turner reported that all divisions except Refractories had shown significant increases in profits in 1975, and that profits for 1976 were expected to be over £3m. The strong liquid position of the Group was enabling a £4.5m expansion programme to be financed from existing facilities.

The Annual General Meeting will be held on 13th May in Birmingham. Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary at P.O. Box 19, Dudley, West Midlands DY3 2AQ.

Conference on North Sea oil

DEVELOPERS and *operators* in the North Sea oil and gas industries will be meeting in Oslo on *May 3 and 4*

The North Sea in 1976 Conference, under the chairmanship of Mr. Sivert Nielsen, director, Bergens Privatbank, and Mr. Joseph Grimond, Liberal MP for Orkney and Shetland, will be concerned with the protection and security of offshore facilities, the choice between concrete and steel platforms and the search for new rig business by offshore contractors.

Among the speakers will be Mr. B. Gjerde, Norwegian Minister of Industry, Sir Jack Rampton, Permanent Under-Secretary, Department of Energy, Mr. M. H Barber, manager, Joint Interests Division, Conoco North Sea, and Mr. John Biffen, Opposition spokesman on energy.

The conference is being arranged by the Financial Times, together with the Norwegian Journal of Commerce and Shipping, Svenska Dagbladet, Berlingske Tidende, and Helsingin Sanomat.

1976

A. Grantham Ltd.,

are proud to have conferred upon them The Queen's Award to Industry for Export Achievement 1976.

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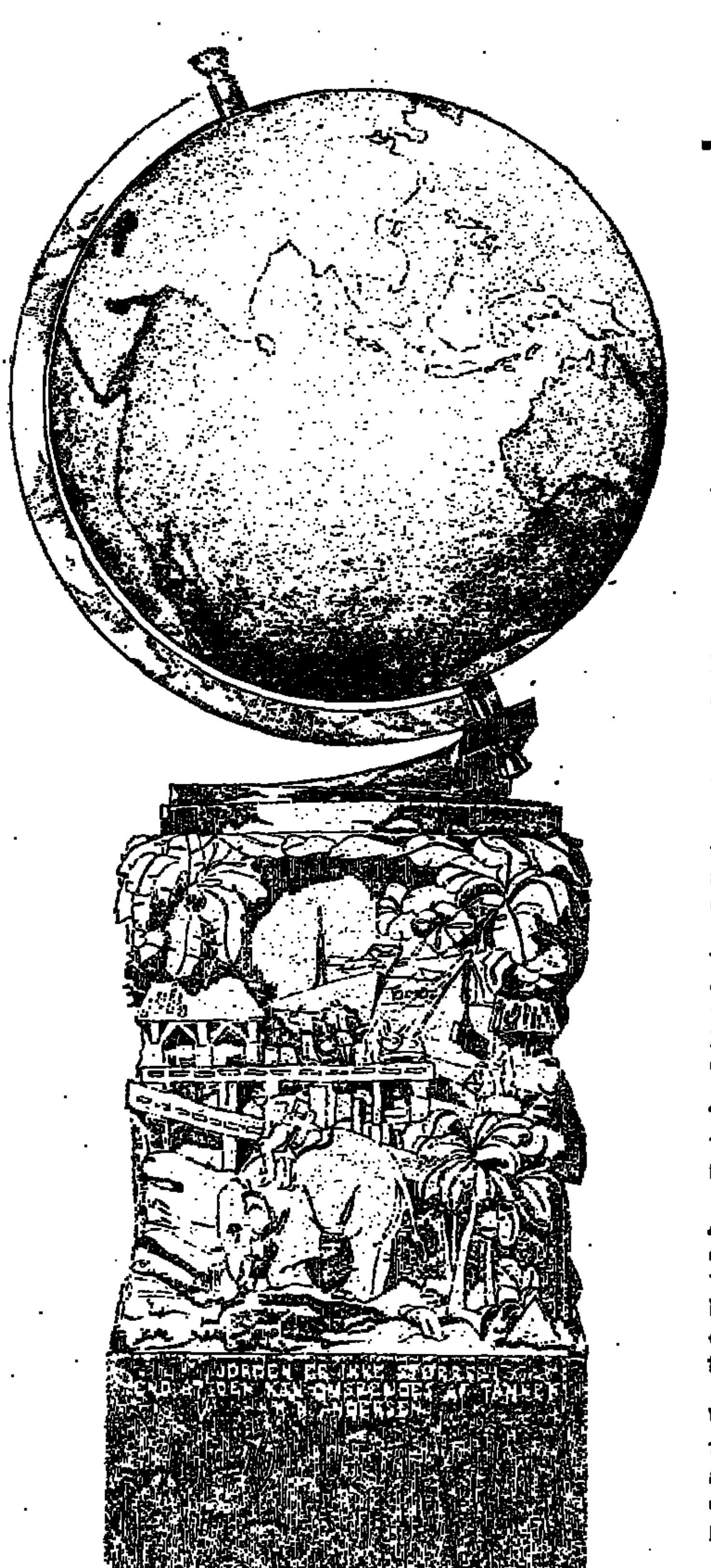
The East Asiatic Company Limited, Copenhag



Annual Report 1975

Already in the Company's Annual Report for 1974, we felt it appropriate *to express the opinion that the prevailing unfavourable world trade* conditions might well prove to be of longer duration than anticipated in some quarters.

Although there are signs that the turning point has been reached f. inst. *in USA it is too early to predict when a real improvement will manifest* itself generally. In our own country this will depend on the extent to which it is possible to contain the present reduced tempo of inflation, a prerequisite for restoration of our competitiveness, after a number of years of excessive cost increases.

The results for the year have been influenced by adverse freight market conditions, and by reduced earnings of some of our industrial undertakings, the latter of which is clearly reflected in the Group results; *however, as a whole the overall results must in the circumstances be* considered satisfactory.

The Group turnover was kr 16,100 mill. compared with kr 18,800 mill. in 1974; the decrease is attributable mainly to the lower price level for raw materials.

After allocation of kr 75 mill. to the special contingency fund, which was established last year with a provision of kr 100 mill., the net result for 1975 of the Parent Company is a profit of kr 91.1 mill. compared with kr. 102.9 mill. in 1974. The result is arrived at after deduction of depreciation on ships, buildings, etc. amounting to kr 65.9 mill. and company taxation of kr 39.7 mill.

With the addition of kr 15 mill. brought forward from the previous year, the amount at disposal totals kr 106.1 mill. which it is proposed to *appropriate in accordance with the profit and loss statement including* distribution to shareholders of a dividend of 12 %, equivalent to kr 60 mill.

Due to continuing legislation on dividend ceilings it is still not possible to distribute to the shareholders the kr 10 mill., representing the unpaid additional dividend of 2 %, for which provision was made in 1973.

Copies of the full Report are available on request.

GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR 1975

		1975 (1,000 kr)
Turnover		16,101,280
External turnover	12,548,006	
Internal turnover	3,553,274	
	16,101,280	
Result of Activities		
Turnover and result of activities derive from:	External turnover	
Shipping	1,311,899	189,931
Trade	5,241,811	331,854
Industry	5,344,058	380,441
Forest and plantation industry	594,461	101,902
Miscellaneous income	55,777	21,297
	12,548,006	1,025,425
Dividend on investments outside the Group		16,848
		1,042,273
Administration expenses		328,133
Profit before Depreciation		714,140
Depreciation on fixed assets		223,641
Profit before Financing Expenses		490,499
Financing expenses		205,534
		284,965
Extraordinary income and expenses		29,449
Profit before Taxation		314,414
Corporation tax		161,356
Group Result for the Year		153,058
Minority shareholders' share in the results of subsidiary companies		46,657
The East Asiatic Company, Limited's share in the Group Result		106,401

(before allocation to the Parent Company's 'special contingency fund': 1975: D.kr 75 million
1974: D.kr 100 million)

Head Office: 2, Holbergsgade, DK-1099 Copenhagen K., Denmark

TER-INFLATION ACT 1973

, have given consent to the declaration by the following
f dividends of the total amounts specified for the
rs ending on the specified dates:

	London, SW1	£3,939,052	3. 1.76
Metals Group Ltd.,	London, W1	£536,722	31.12.75
nd and Building			
	Dorking	£181,800	31.12.75
	Hull	£33,508	3. 1.76
Garages Ltd.,	Manchester	£44,308	31.12.75
ers Corpn. Ltd.,	Harlow	£420,443	31.12.75
ster Ltd.,	London, W1	£442,320	31.12.75
lorton & Sons Ltd.,	Kilmarnock	£100,000	30. 6.76
Group Ltd.,	London, SW1	£41,539	31.12.75
thews Ltd.,	Norwich	£462,000	28.12.75
oup Ltd.,	Glasgow	£1,417,957	2. 1.76
itations Ltd.,	London, EC3	£292,710	31. 3.76
Engineering Group			
	Lewes	£410,678	31.12.75
	Cowley	£12,308	31. 1.76
d Co. Ltd.,	London, WC2	£1,165,243	31.12.75
als International			
	Iver	£154,616	31.12.75
Engineering Ltd.,	Cheltenham	£718,475	31.12.75
n Ltd.,	Oldham	£18,954	31.12.75
	Doncaster	£4,187,988	31.12.75
en Ltd.,	Leicester	£687,380	31.12.75
roup Ltd.,	Tamworth	£102,692	31.12.75
k Group Ltd.,	Manchester	£54,860	31.12.75
g Rubber Ltd.,	Sevenoaks	£28,444	30. 9.75
	Windsor	£546,703	31. 1.76
Concrete Ltd.,	Feltham	£4,620,354	31.12.75
Ice Rink Company			
	Glasgow	£2,250	30. 9.75
ckintosh Ltd.,	York	£3,190,154	3. 1.76
o Ltd.,	London, W1	£204,655	31.12.75
ons Ltd.,	Newcastle	£1,438,302	31.12.75
Sons Ltd.,	Perth	£1,184,121	31.12.75

l by the Treasury as required by the above Act

HOME CONTRACTS

Leyland Group's £2m. orders

LEYLAND SPECIAL PRODUCTS GROUP companies have received orders totalling more than £2m. Aveling-Barford has won contracts worth over £1,350,000 from Sir Alfred McAlpine and Sons for 44 roadmaking and earthmoving machines, almost half of which are dumptrucks for use on the CEGB's pumped storage power station at Dinorwic, in Snowdonia. The remainder of this contract covers 14 Centaur dumptrucks for McAlpine quarry operations in South Wales, plus 11 motor graders and road rollers for use on various other work, including the western extension to the M62 motorway. Coventry Climax has been awarded an order worth £750,000 for 100 fork-lift trucks from the Harvey Plant Group, which also includes an option on a further 50 trucks.

*

GEC ELECTRICAL PROJECTS has received from Redpath Dorman Long (Contracting) a contract worth more than £800,000 for electrical drives and control equipment for new inspection lines and de-seaming stations at BSC's Normanby Park works, Scunthorpe.

*

ROCLA PIPES, Milton Keynes, has been awarded an order worth £450,000 to supply reinforced and prestressed concrete pipes for the London Borough of Newham for use in its Beckton surface water sewerage scheme.

*

EAE, a Plessey Company, is supplying a further three radio stations for Total pipe laying barges operating in the North Sea. The contract—now worth over £400,000.00—brings the total number of stations supplied to nine.

*

N. G. BAILEY & CO., Sheffield, has won orders totalling almost £850,000. They involve complete electrical installation, and one of them, worth about £125,000, concerns a coal preparation plant at Thurcroft Colliery, South Yorkshire. Other contracts relate to a new Littlewoods store at Bedford, a College of Art at Rotherham, Phase 2 of the Skegness Pier development scheme, and the new Woodhouse Mill sewage works at Sheffield.

*

BURROUGHS has received an order worth about £800,000 from Midland Bank for 2,000 electronic printing calculators. The machines are to be installed in the bank's branches and head office departments and will be used primarily for "remittance operation"—a system involving the add-listing of credits and debits by batches for proving the day's work.

*

CLARKE CHAPMAN, Derby has won a £300,000 contract under which a chrome oxide washing plant is to be installed at British Chrome and Chemicals chrome manufacturing complex at Eaglescliffe, Co. Durham.

Clachan wins £2m. BSC work

CLACHAN EXCAVATIONS AND CONSTRUCTION, Paisley, has been awarded a £2m. contract by the British Steel Corporation for site preparation work at Hunterston (Ayrshire) to prepare the way for construction of the U.K.'s first two direct reduction plants. Work involves reclamation and levelling on a 35 acre site adjoining the stockyard now being constructed as part of the Corporation's ore and coal terminal project. An embankment will also be formed for a railway line linking the direct reduction plants with the main line system.

*

PLESSEY AEROSPACE has received an order worth over £300,000 for a range of equipments for the Hawker Siddeley Sea Harrier FRS Mk. I. It covers water injection pumps, air filters, gear boxes, auxiliary gear boxes, fuel booster pumps, pressure regulating valves and air-motor servo units.

Henry Boot's £2.4m. work

HENRY BOOT CONSTRUCTION, Sheffield, has won a £1.7m. contract for 197 dwellings to be built at Mansfield Road, Swallownest, for Rotherham Borough Council, which has also awarded the company an order worth £409,000 for construction of an observation and assessment centre at Kimberworth Park, Rotherham. Henry Boot has also received a contract worth £295,000 from Salford University, on which work has already started, to construct an engineering services and works building.

*

GEC TELECOMMUNICATIONS has been awarded a contract worth about £300,000 by the Department of the Environment for the first stage of a new co-ordinated motorway communications network. The system will provide bi-directional transmission circuits for the control of motorway signals, telephones, and other devices by remote computer.

RENWICKS FREIGHT, a division of the Renwick Group, has been awarded a two-year contract worth £200,000 per annum, by British Leyland for the distribution of their Unipart replacements in South Wales and the West Country.

*

WARREN POINT, Welwyn, Herts., has won a contract worth about £150,000 from British Gas for the design and development of a complete ruggedised data acquisition and high-speed data processing system.

*

KING-WILKINSON, a U.K. affiliate of King-Wilkinson Offshore, Inc., has been awarded a contract to manage the offshore installation of Occidental of Scotland's Claymore facilities.

*

NCR has received orders from the Post Office for 18 Century 8200 computers and 50 NCR 796-101 visual display terminals to process payrolls for Post Office workers in the London area.

Royal Insurance

Salient points from Mr. Daniel Meinertzhagen's Statement

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Insurance Company Limited will be held on Thursday, 13th May, in Liverpool. The following extracts are from a statement by the Chairman, Mr. Daniel Meinertzhagen, sent to stockholders with the 130th Annual Report and Accounts.

Despite the many problems the company has faced, improvements were achieved in all but two of the main territorial divisions, most notably in Australia where the underwriting loss was reduced substantially but even in the United States where conditions were so very bad. However the deterioration in Europe was something of a disappointment, even though the loss was entirely due to the effect of adverse motor experience in the Netherlands.

The total underwriting result, a loss of £32.4m as compared with the loss of £39.8m in 1974, did not show quite the measure of improvement for which we had been looking even as late as November and the final outcome was marred by the adverse effect of the unusually severe weather conditions experienced in parts of Canada during December.

Nevertheless the firm measures taken during 1974, which were continued in 1975, to reduce our exposures in the less profitable areas and classes of business, and to increase premium levels to achieve profitability despite the inroads of inflation, are having their effect. We are hopeful that, with much of the benefit yet to emerge from the higher premiums already in force and with the further corrective action still being taken, the trend of improvement will gather pace during the current year. It must be expected, however, that, following the violent storms in the United Kingdom in January, and with the continuing problems in the United States, the improvement over last year may well not emerge to any material degree until the second half of the year. I can assure stockholders that every possible endeavour has been and continues to be made to restore the underwriting to profitability, though this may still take some time to achieve.

A particularly helpful feature of 1975 was the substantial rise in the level of stock markets during the year, not only in the United Kingdom but in the other major markets of the world as well. This improvement was reflected in the market value of our investments and I am pleased to be able to tell stockholders that, also taking into account the additional capital raised by the rights issue towards the end of the year, the Group's ratio of stockholders' funds to 1975 premiums (the 'solvency margin') was approximately 46% at the year-end. Since the turn of the year market values have increased further and the ratio to 1975 premiums is at present around 51%.

There was a useful increase in investment income to £62.5m of which approximately £1.4m arose from investment of the new money raised by the rights issue and the use of this money for a full year will, of course, help to produce a further increase in investment income during 1976.

The total operating profit for the year of £32.7m before taxation was more than twice that achieved in 1974. After taxation the profit was £21.1m and the final dividend recommended of 8.087p will bring the total distribution for the year to 13.387p (compared with 12.544p in 1974). This accords with the expectation expressed at the time of the rights issue and will leave a transfer to retained profits of £2.6m.

One of the major difficulties with which insurance companies have been grappling during the recent period of high inflation has been and is that the rates of inflation in so far as insurance business is concerned are generally higher than the commonly quoted rates of inflation. In particular over a period the level of Court awards for bodily injury and the cost of repairing motor vehicles and property have been consistently outrunning monetary rates of inflation generally throughout the world.

The position has been further complicated due to the political sensitivity which has emerged in many aspects affecting insurance and the growth of consumerism and consumer-awareness. These in turn have led in many places to a limitation of premium rates and growth either through direct political intervention or by State-sponsored competition or other forms of restriction. The trend in this direction is one which it is difficult to see being reversed in the short term and many people, especially politicians, tend to forget that in the long run claims can only be satisfied out of the premiums collected and what can be earned on them. It is a feature which has a particularly adverse effect where risks which are unacceptable on commercial grounds are required by law to be covered in the market at tightly regulated rates or where a deficiency of one insurer, no matter how it arises, must be met in whole or in part by others.

If attitudes of this kind persist they will serve only to undermine the capital base of insurers making it increasingly difficult for them even to accommodate the higher sums insured necessitated by the effects of inflation, quite apart from the growing demands for more sophisticated forms of insurance cover and the need to serve continuously increasing populations and the growth in world trade.

The ability to maintain and develop adequate free reserves is quite essential for the future of any insurance business. Such growth in reserves should come, in the first place, from surpluses emerging from profitable underwriting, with investment income and capital appreciation from the pursuit of successful investment policies also playing a vital role. The alternative of raising additional capital in the market also depends on running a successful business which can show good prospects for the future. The past growth and successes of the industry have been based upon these precepts and the ability to exercise the maximum freedom to pursue investment policies consistent with policyholders' and shareholders' best long-term interests is an essential corollary. Proposals which are made from time to time artificially to *influence the direction of our investments must conflict* with these interests.

This year we shall for the first time be holding the Annual General Meeting in our new building in Liverpool in which is to be housed our Head Office for the United Kingdom. The building is due to be completed by mid-year and it is with great pleasure that I record that Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra has graciously consented to perform the official opening ceremony on 7th July.

I express my thanks and those of the stockholders for the dedication to the affairs of the company shown by management and staff throughout the world during the past very difficult year. It is principally through the exercise of their skill and judgment that we have been able to show the improvement achieved in the company's position during the past twelve months and, whilst much still remains to be done, I have every confidence in their abilities to carry through to a satisfactory conclusion the difficult tasks that lie ahead.

I also thank most warmly our agents throughout the world for the loyal support they have continued to give us during the past year.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Registrars Department, 1 North John Street, Liverpool L69 4AS.

Summary of Consolidated Results

	1975 £m	1974 £m
General Insurance Premiums Written	786·9	663.9
Earnings		
General Insurance Underwriting Result	–32·4	–39·8
Investment Income on Stockholders' and General Insurance Funds	62·5	51·8
Stockholders' Long-term Insurance Profits	1·7	1·7
Share of Associated Companies' Profits	0·9	1·3
Profit before taxation	32·7	15·0
less UK and Overseas Taxation	11·4	4·3
Minority Interests	0·2	0·0
Net Profit	21·1	10·7
(per unit of stock)	(15·9p)	(8·3p)
Dividend		
Interim	6·4	3·0
Second Interim	—	3·0
Proposed Final	12·1	9·1
Total	18·5	15·1
(per unit of stock)	(13·4p)	(12·5p)
Transfer to Retained Profits	2·6	–4·4

Royal Insurance
looks after you. Fast

(This advertisement appears as a matter of record only)

Banco Nacional de Obras y Servicios Publicos, S.A.

$220,000,000

Medium term loan

Managed by

Libra Bank Limited

Chase Manhattan Limited | **Banco de Comercio, S.A.**
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce | **Citicorp International Group**
Western American Bank (Europe) Limited

Co-Managed by

Associated Japanese Bank (International) Limited
Chemical Bank
Fidelity Union Trust Company
First International Bancshares Limited
First Pennsylvania Bank N.A.
First Wisconsin National Bank of Milwaukee
Japan International Bank Limited
London Interstate Bank Limited
Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit
Marine Midland Bank
Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York
Orion Bank Limited
Westdeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale

And provided by

The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.	Banco de Comercio, S.A.	Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
Citibank N.A.	Chemical Bank	Fidelity Union Trust Company
First Pennsylvania Bank N.A.	First Wisconsin National Bank of Milwaukee, London Branch	Manufacturers National Bank of Detroit
Marine Midland Bank	Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York	Orion Bank Limited
WestLB International S.A.	*Libra Bank Limited*	Associated Japanese Bank (International) Limited
First International Bancshares Limited	Bank of Montreal (Bahamas & Caribbean) Limited	The Bank of Tokyo Trust Company
First National Bank in Dallas	Maryland National Bank, Nassau Branch	National Bank of Detroit
Security Pacific National Bank	Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.	Western American Bank (Europe) Limited
Japan International Bank Limited	Kuwait Pacific Finance Company Limited	London Interstate Bank Limited
Nomura International (Hong Kong) Limited	*Third National Bank in Nashville*	*The First National Bank of Atlanta,* Grand Cayman Branch
Mitsubishi Bank (Europe) S.A.	*Tokai Bank (Nederland) N.V.*	Bank Leu International Limited
Bank of Scotland	Daiwa (Europe) N.V.	Interamerican Bank Corporation S.A., Panama
Investitions-und Handels-Bank A.G., London Branch	Mercantile Trust Company N.A., Grand Cayman Branch	The Nikko (Luxembourg) S.A.
The Sanwa Bank of California	United Virginia Bank	Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, N.A.

Agent bank

Libra Bank Limited

APPOINTMENTS

Whitbread specialist directors

Mr. A. J. Burge, Mr. R. M. Martineau, Mr. D. L. Sheridan, Mr. D. O. Smith and Mr. J. Q. Walker have been appointed specialist directors of WHITBREAD AND CO.

★

Mr. Roy Waudby has been appointed chairman and group chief executive of CATTLE'S (HOLDINGS).

★

Mr. John Lagham, an executive director of Stone-Platt Industries and chairman of Stone Manganese Marine, has been appointed a non-executive director of BPB INDUSTRIES.

★

Lady Taylor has been appointed a director of TAYLOR-WOODROW. Wife of Sir Frank Taylor, who founded the group, Lady Taylor is a member of the executive Board and a director of Taylor Woodrow Homes.

★

Mr. John Nugent has joined the Board of WHITE CHILD AND BENEY.

★

Mr. A. W. Hartwell has been appointed chairman of CORNERCROFT following the retirement of Mr. J. R. Mead.

★

Mr. J. S. Lyon has been appointed managing director of HUNTON INTERNATIONAL, a subsidiary of Weeks Associates.

★

Mr. W. Stanley Nelson, who joined FORDS OF BRISTOL in 1949, has been appointed managing director.

★

Mr. Peter Macadam has been appointed a director of TOBACCO SECURITIES TRUST COMPANY. *Mr. Macadam is the chairman of* British-American Tobacco.

★

Mr. A. J. Beveridge has been elected a director of STAR OFFSHORE SERVICES.

★

Mr. Geoffrey Sealey has been elected to the Board of GRANADA MOTORWAY SERVICES as marketing director. *He has* been with Granada for three years and has been responsible for the food *service and retailing.* Granada Motorway Services, a subsidiary of Granada Group, operates eight motorway service areas.

WM SWORD & CO

INCORPORATED

announces the formation of an

International Investment Banking Firm

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Joseph M. Self
William A. Stoltzfus, Jr.
Charles Barnwell Straut
William Sword

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Cable: WMSWORDCO Princeton NJ

This announcement appears as a matter of record only.

New Issue:

$25,000,000 (Canadian)

TRADERS GROUP LIMITED

9¾% Senior Secured Notes Series AS due March 15, 1982

McLeod, Young, Weir & Company Limited | **Dean Witter Internation**
Bankers Trust International Limited | **Orion Bank L**
Société Générale de Banque S.A. | **Swiss Bank Corporation (Overseas) L**
Union Bank of Switzerland (Securities) Limited | **S.G. Warburg & C**

H. Albert de Bary & Co. N.V. — Algemene Bank Nederland N.V. — A. E. Ames &
Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V. — Bache Halsey Stuart Inc. — Julius Baer Internationa
Banca Commerciale Italiana — Banca del Gottardo — Banca Nazionale d
Banca della Svizzera Italiana — Banco di Roma — Bank Gutzwiller, Kurz, Bungener (Overseas
Bank Leu International Ltd. — Banque du Bénélux S.A. — Banque Bruxelles Lam
Banque Française du Commerce Extérieur — Banque Générale du Luxemb
Banque de l'Indochine et de Suez — Banque Internationale à Luxemb
Banque Lambert-Luxembourg S.A. — Banque Nationale de Paris — Banque de Neuflize, Schlumberge
Banque de Paris et des Pays-Bas — Banque Populaire Suisse SA Luxembourg — Banque R
Banque de l'Union Européenne — *Banque Worms* — Baring Brothers & Co., Limited — Bayerische Ver
Berliner Handels- und Frankfurter Bank — Blyth Eastman Dillon & Co. Internationa
Burns Bros. and Denton Limited — Caisse des Dépôts Consignations — Cazeno
Citicorp International Bank Limited — *Commerzbank Aktiengesellschaft* — *Compagnia Finanziaria Intermobilia*
Continental Illinois Limited — Creditanstalt-Bankverein — Crédit Commercial d
Crédit Industriel d'Alsace et de Lorraine — Crédit Industriel et Commercial — Crédit Lyonnais — Credit
Crédit du Nord et Union Parisienne — Credit Suisse White Weld Limited — Daiwa Eur
Den Danske Landmandsbank — Den norske Creditbank — Deutsche Girozentrale—Deutsche Kommun
Dewaay & Associés International S.C.S. — Dillon, Read Overseas Cor
Dominion Securities Corporation Harris & Partners Limited — Dresdner Bank Aktiengesellschaft — Effectenbank- Aktiengesell
First Boston (Europe) Limited — Robert Fleming & Co. Limited — Fry Mills Spence
Girozentrale und Bank der Österreichischen Sparkassen Aktiengesellschaft — *Goldman Sachs Internatio*
Greenshields Incorporated — Handelsbank N.W. (Overseas) Limited — Hessische Landesbank —Girozentrale— — Hill Samu Limi
International Marine Banking Co. Limited — Kleinwort, Benson Limited — Kredietb
Kredietbank S.A. Luxembourgeoise — *Kuhn, Loeb & Co. International* — Lazard Brothe Limited
Lazard Frères et Cie — Lévesque, Beaubien Inc. — London Multinational Bank (Underwriters)
Manufacturers Hanover Limited — Merck, Finck & Co. — Merrill Lynch Internation
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Peterbroeck, Van Campenhout, Kempen S.A. — Pictet International Ltd. — Pierson, Heldring & Pier
W. C. Pitfield & Co. (London) Ltd. — Pl
Richardson Securities of Canada (U.K.) Ltd. — N.M. Rothschild & Sons Limited — Salomon B
Santo Spirito Investments Limited — Scandinavian Bank Limited — J. Henry Schroder Wag Limited
Schweizerische Hypotheken- und Handelsbank — *Skandinaviska Enskilda*
Slavenburg Oyens & van Eeghen N.V. — Smith Barney, Harris Upham & Co. Incorporated — Société Centrale de
Société Générale — SoGen-Swiss International Corporation — Strauss, Turnbull & Co. — Sumitomo Whi Limited
Svenska Handelsbanken — Trade Development Bank Overseas Inc. — Vereins- und W. Aktiengesellsch
M.M. Warburg-Brinckmann, Wirtz & Co. — Warburg Paribas Becker Inc. — Westdeutsche Lan Girozentrale
Westfalenbank Aktiengesellschaft — Williams, Glyn & Co. — Wood Gundy Limited — Yamaichi International (I Limited

REPORT TO INVESTORS from a company called TRW

1975: Higher Sales, Higher Earnings

TRW Inc., a major international supplier of high technology products and services, reports higher sales, earnings, and earnings per share for 1975.

1975 sales reached the $2.59 billion mark, compared to 1974's $2.49 billion. Earnings after taxes reached $103.9 million, or $3.08 per share, compared with restated 1974 net earnings of $93.0 million, or $2.76 per share.

Factors in 1975 Success

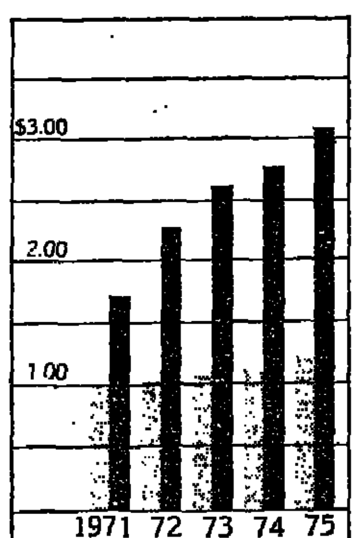
- Management at every level of the company effectively implemented long-range plans which anticipated reduced worldwide economic activity and continuing high inflation in 1975.
- TRW's decentralized operating units skillfully adjusted their near-term plans and budgets to accommodate rapidly changing market conditions.
- The nature of our diversification permitted emphasis on strong segments of the company's business that more than offset defensive steps in segments that cycled downward.

Gains Noted in Several Business Categories

Significant gains were achieved in the following lines of business: international car and truck products, energy products and services, and automotive replacement parts. The electronics and fasteners, tools and bearings categories both suffered from weakness in demand in some segments of their markets.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS
(Dollar amounts in thousands except per share data)

	1975	1974 (Restated)	% Change
Net Sales	$2,585,683	$2,486,022	4.0%
Earnings Before Taxes	$ 184,305	$ 176,333	4.5%
Percent to Sales	7.1%	7.1%	
Net Earnings	$ 103,899	$ 92,975	11.7%
Percent to Sales	4.0%	3.7%	
Percent to Average Shareholders' Investment	14.3%	13.9%	
Primary Earnings	$ 3.08	$ 2.76	11.6%
Fully Diluted Earnings	2.86	2.62	9.2%
Cash Dividends Paid	1.20	1.12	7.1%
Total Assets	$1,686,465	$1,697,532	(.7)%
Total Shareholders' Investment	$ 761,854	$ 694,129	9.8%



EARNINGS AND CASH DIVIDENDS PER COMMON SHARE
Cash dividends per share
Primary earnings per share

1976 And The Future

TRW's performance during the last 10 years—including *performance exceeding that of* its markets during two worldwide recessions—permits confidence in the future. There is reason to expect that TRW's performance can be even better as worldwide economic conditions improve in the years immediately ahead.

For complete information on TRW's 1975 results, please write for a copy of our annual report. TRW Europe, Inc., 25 St. James's Street, London SW1A-1HA.

A COMPANY CALLED TRW

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ERNATIONAL COMPANY NEWS + EURO MARKETS

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...KYO, April 20.

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ITT divestment seen in French telecom deal

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

PARIS, April 20.

THE ALLOCATION of new orders for computerised telephone equipment by the French PTT will involve a complete re-organisation of the country's telecommunications industry—including almost certainly the surrender by ITT of one of its subsidiaries here and a vastly expanded role for the Thomson-Brandt electrical group.

The final decision will only be taken by the Postal Ministry, probably before the end of this month. But there now seems little doubt that the two systems chosen, of the three still in the running, will be the AXE technique of the French subsidiary of Sweden's Ericsson group and the Metaconta exchange, offered in slightly different forms by both of ITT's local offshoots, CGCT and LMT.

The price, however, which has been demanded by the Paris government is domestic financial control of the companies which manufacture the equipment finally selected. This ITT is now understood to have accepted.

A fortnight ago employees at LMT were informed by the management that the U.S. parent was ready to divest itself of one of the two French subsidiaries—although it is still not clear which. The emotive word "nationalisation" is being carefully avoided, and official pronouncements speak only of "*francisation.*"

The loss of either LMT or CGCT, which had sales in 1975 of Frs.1.5bn. (£170m.) and Frs.1.1bn. (£130m.) respectively, is the condition which the conglomerate is understandably prepared to meet to gain a foothold in such an enormous potential market.

The modernisation of the much criticised French telephone service planned by the PTT calls for an increase in the number of subscribers to 20m. by 1982 from only 7m. to-day. The investment required to bring France up to the level of the U.K. or West Germany will be a reported Frs. 130bn. (£15bn.) of which a third will go on new exchanges alone.

Should events follow this course, the big winner will be Thomson which after a 50-year absence from the telephone business, will be in charge of projects which could cover some 30 per cent. of the French market to say nothing of subsequent export possibilities.

Informal agreement is already understood to have been reached for Thomson to take control of Ericsson-France, which had turnover of over Frs.700m. (£80m.), in 1974. It now appears that the Group is in line to take over—either alone or aided by the Government—whichever subsidiary ITT concedes.

After its recent disappointments in the computer field, such an outcome would give Thomson wide financial sway over the new generation of French telephone equipment, and means the virtual exclusion of CGE, its great rival, which had been hoping for a share of the market via the Japanese D-10 system offered by its subsidiary CIT-Alcatel.

Matters of course are still not conclusively settled, and if the past is any yardstick surprises are on the cards even at this late hour. The remaining hurdles are a final set of negotiations between ITT and the French authorities and the related question of how Thomson is to finance the acquisition of two large companies.

Bofors forecasts profits fall

BY WILLIAM DULLFORCE

STOCKHOLM, April 20.

BOFORS, the Swedish armaments, steel and chemicals concern is forecasting a fall in profits this year after two good years, during which a tough structural rationalisation helped to treble pre-tax earnings.

Sales are expected to rise by 10 per cent. from the Kr.1.7bn. (£210m.) recorded last year. But, according to the 1975 shareholders' report, it will not be possible to obtain price increases to offset the swelling payroll costs. The improvement in the steel and chemicals sectors will not be felt until 1977.

The forecast, in fact, conceals the underlying strength of Bofors. New orders received last year amounted to Kr.2.7bn. (£330m.), of which Kr.1.5bn. were for defence equipment. The order book at the end of the year was worth Kr.3.4bn. (£420m.), of which Kr.2.1bn. concerned defence contracts, while prices of 80 per cent. of the orders were index-linked.

The turnover breakdown allocates only one-third of sales to the ordnance division, which contributed Kr.44m. to the Kr.121m. operating profit after depreciation. But it is evident that defence contracts account for a far higher portion of Bofors' sales. The steel division, for instance, at a time of recession in world steel markets which savaged profits in almost all steel companies, raised its operating profits from Kr.35m. to Kr.47m. on sales of Kr.559m. The "external" order inflow to the steel division in 1975 was Kr.387m. against Kr.1.54bn. for the ordnance division. Operating profits in the Nobel chemicals division fell from Kr.22m. to Kr.7m., while the concern's foreign subsidiaries contributed Kr.10m. on a turnover of Kr.150m.

Pre-tax earnings, as reported earlier in the Financial Times, rose by Kr.15m. to Kr.142m. (£17.5m.) last year. If stock profits of Kr.18.3m. and an extraordinary credit of Kr.3.5m. are deducted and adjustment is made for depreciation at replacement value, the pre-tax profit comes out at Kr.87m. compared with Kr.67m. in 1974.

The return on total capital was 10.9 per cent. compared with the previous year's 19.7 per cent., which Mr. Claes-Ulrik Winberg, the managing-director, characterised as still too low. The return on equity was 10.8 per cent. and adjusted earnings per share were Kr.39.60 compared with Kr.32. The board proposes to raise the shareholders' dividend from Kr.8 to Kr.9 a share.

Investment in inventories during the year was Kr.295.7m., a growth of 35 per cent. mostly from work in progress on defence orders, turbines, presses and locomotives. It was more than covered by an increase of Kr.679m. while a further Kr.110m. is being allocated from the year's profits to the inventory reserve.

Brown Boveri soldiers on

BY GUY HAWTIN

FRANKFURT, April 20.

BROWN BOVERI has warned that the current year's growth rate is unlikely to match that of 1975. However, the Mannheim-based associate of the Swiss electrical group performed particularly well last year despite the recession which gravely affected so many other industrial concerns.

Dr. Hans Goehringer, the Executive Board Chairman, said that, despite the general economic upturn, turnover in the mass production sector was not expected to expand by much more than 1 per cent. or so. At the same time, the plant manufacturing division—a particularly powerful support in 1975—was expected to remain relatively weak across a broad front.

During the first quarter of the current business year, orders excluding foreign deliveries were down by 14 per cent. on the extremely high level of the same period of 1975. Turnover during the first three months was maintained at just under the level of the comparable period of last year.

This, however, should be measured against the extraordinarily high growth in orders during 1975. At the end of last year the order book stood at DM6.1bn. (£1.3bn.), of which half were generated abroad as foreign orders more than doubled. Dr. Goehringer said that it was unlikely that 1976 overseas performance would match that of the previous year.

Brown Boveri's turnover in 1975 rose by 13 per cent. to DM3.33bn. (£712m.)—measurably surpassing 1974's 10 per cent. growth rate. The concern spectacularly outperformed the electrical industry's average turnover decline of 2.3 per cent.

The impetus for the growth in turnover came in the plant manufacturing sector, which did particularly well in the export field. Turnover in the technical mass production goods sector fell back by 11 per cent.

Overall domestic turnover shrank by 5 per cent. to DM2.3bn., while prices rose by an average 4.5 per cent. Export turnover soared by 46 per cent. to just over the DM1bn. mark and, at the same time, overseas sales as a proportion of total turnover rose from the previous year's 24 per cent. to 29.5 per cent.

Earnings improved measurably during 1975. Net profits rose from DM33.6m. to DM38.3m., while DM18m. was allocated to reserves, against DM14m. in 1974. Earnings tax rose from DM80.5m. to DM88.4m. The concern—56 per cent. owned by the Swiss parent—was recommending an unchanged 16 per cent. dividend or DM8 per DM50 nominal share.

ARKET ROUND-UP

...tralia drifts despite election

...TH

SYDNEY, April 20.

...hare markets ...d performance ...ee months of ...ong start, the ..., then for a ...oyed a strong ...e in mining ...y a short, but ...in industrials. ...ket is drifting ...few commen- ...forecast that ...nificantly over ...bs.

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The market uncertainty is now growing as investors are beginning to doubt that a recovery in the economy will take place. There are encouraging signs that the government's economic measures to date will slow the inflation rate down as long as the lid can be kept on wage increases. The government's wage indexation policy is currently on trial, with some large unions attempting to break down the indexation guidelines.

The share market began 1976 confidently, carrying on from the closing stages of 1975. The election of the liberal-national Country Party coalition was undoubtedly a boost to confidence as it was felt that it would favour private enterprise more than its predecessor. In fact the LNCP campaigned on the need to restore a greater share of the national cake to industry, which had been badly affected by costs, mainly wages, rising at a much faster pace than profit margins.

The market was firm throughout most of January when the government introduced a package of economic measures. The moves were dressed up to create the impression that interest rates were on the way down through a cut in bank overdraft rates. But this was more than countered by the introduction of a new government bond at a much higher interest rate than alternative short-term securities and a lift in the minimum liquidity requirements of the banks.

The industrial market rose strongly in February which led to a rash of company share issues, mainly to raise working capital. Very little of the funds were earmarked for capital expansion. Within a few weeks issues totalling more than $A200m. were announced. The result is that the market for rights is now subdued and it seems likely that the number of new issues will slow down considerably.

One innovation during the quarter was the introduction of a stock options post on the Sydney Stock Exchange, based on the system operating on the Chicago Board of Trade. At present only four stocks are listed, Western Mining Corporation, Broken Hill Proprietary, CSR and Woodside-Burmah. The post enables investors to trade in the options and has proven extremely popular since it provides greater leverage—albeit at greater risk.

SELECTED EURODOLLAR BOND PRICES MID-DAY INDICATIONS

STRAIGHTS	Bid	Offer
Aquitaine 10pc 1986	104	105
Ashland 8pc 1987	96½	97½
Austrswiss 8pc 1987	94	95
BFCE 8½pc 1983	99½	100½
CNE 9¾pc 1985	102½	103½
Comalco 8pc 1986	101	102
ECS 8½pc 1986	101	102
EIB 9½pc 1985	102½	103½
ERAP 9½pc 1985	103	104
Esso 8pc 1986 Nov.	101½	102½
Eurofima 9½pc 1983	99¾	100¾
Granges 9½pc 1985	101	102
Massey 9½pc 1982	104	105
Michelin 9½pc 1986	101¾	102¾
MODO 9½pc 1983	100	101
Nwfdld. Labrador 9½pc '86	104½	105½
New Zealand 9½pc 1982	103	104
Norpipe 9½pc 1986	100¾	101½
Norsk Hydro 9½pc 1986	102¾	103½
Oslo 9pc 1988	100½	101½
Pacific Light 9pc 1988	96¾	97¾
Prov. Quebec 9pc 1984	100¾	101¾
Scanraff 8½pc 1988	99	100
SFE 9pc 1983	101	102
Shell 9pc 1986	101	102
Stand. Oil (Ind.) 8½pc '88	103	104
Svenska Handels 9½pc 1986	100	101
Volvo 9½pc 1983	103½	104½
NOTES		
Barclays 9½pc 1982	101¾	102¾
British Gas 9pc 1981	101½	102½
Charb. France 9¼pc 1981	100	101
Denmark Mt. Bk. 9pc '83	97½	98½
ECS 8½pc 1981	101½	102½
EEC 8½pc 1982	97½	98
Elec. Council 8½pc 1981	98½	99½
Montreal 9½pc 1983	102½	103½
Nippon Steel 9½pc 1980	102¾	103¾
Norway 9½pc 1981	102½	103½
Prov. Quebec 8¾pc 1981	99¾	100¾
Seagram 9pc 1983	102¾	103¾

Source: White Weld Securities.

CONVERTIBLES	Bid	Offer
American Express 4½pc '87	81½	83½
Ashland 5pc 1988	85	87
Beatrice Foods 4¼pc 1992	93½	95½
Beatrice Foods 4½pc 1992	103	105
Borden 5pc 1992	97	99
Broadway Hale 4½pc 1987	78½	80½
Canon Camera 7¼pc 1989	128	130
Carnation 4pc 1987	81	83
Chevron 5pc 1988	110	112
Dart 4½pc 1987	85½	87½
Eastman Kodak 4½pc 1988	125	127
Economic Labs. 4½pc 1987	92	94
Fed. Dept. Stores 4½pc '85	126	128
Firestone 5pc 1988	90	92
Ford 6pc 1986	100	102
Ford 5pc 1988	88½	90½
General Electric 4¼pc 1987	83	85
Gillette 4¾pc 1987	81½	83½
Gould 5pc 1987	90	92
Gulf and Western 5pc 1988	96	98
Harris 5pc 1992	82	84
Honeywell 6pc 1986	83	85
ITT 4½pc 1987	78½	80½
Komatsu 7½pc 1990	103	104½
J. Ray McDermott 4¾pc '87	131	133
Mitsubishi Elec. 7½pc 1991	101	102½
Mitsui 7¼pc 1990	100½	102
J. P. Morgan 4¾pc 1987	118	120
Nabisco 5½pc 1988	91	93
Owens Illinois 4½pc 1992	99½	101½
J. C. Penney 4½pc 1987	85½	87½
Pioneer 6½pc 1989	258	263
Revlon 4½pc 1987	192½	194½
Reynolds Metals 5pc 1988	89	91
Sperry Rand 4½pc 1987	99	101
Squibb 4½pc 1987	81	83
Texaco 4½pc 1988	78	80
Toshiba 6½pc 1990	103½	105
Union Carbide 4½pc 1982	122	124
Warner Lambert 4½pc 1987	91	93
Warner Lambert 4½pc 1988	84	86
Xerox 5pc 1988	75½	77½

Source: Kidder, Peabody Securities.

EEC DIRECTIVES

Ideas in the pipeline

BY CHRISTOPHER HILL

WORKING UP enthusiasm for EEC directives aimed at standardisation has not come easy for the financial community in the U.K. When Britain joined the EEC in 1973 it was customary to think that the advantages of the "liberal" system embodied in City tradition would be appreciated and accepted by the other countries. Consequently it took some time to realise that the City would have to put its ideas across in order to promote liberal regimes in the banking, fund management and insurance areas.

Initiative

But, according to the U.K. delegation in Brussels, there has over the past year been a welcome increase in U.K. initiative. This is because there are several directives, either going through the EEC machinery or in the pipeline, which are eventually going to mean something in practical terms.

For example, one draft directive which went to the Commission this week (and is expected to be adopted) tries to standardise rules for unit trust operations. For the main part it holds few terrors for U.K. fund managers.

Some member states would have liked "permissible" investments to be restricted to securities which were completely transferable (quoted equities) whilst others wanted forms of investment like gold, diamonds and real estate to be included. One of the aims of the drafters was to include the Dutch giant investment company Robeco in the definition, for without the latter the value of the directive would have been considerably reduced.

It looks as if other directives should follow in this area. This one only concerns funds of an "open-ended" nature, and nothing has been laid down about selling methods. It is intended to start examining this aspect in the near future.

The main life assurance directive has got bogged down in the Council framework. What it amounts to is that there is a conflict between the German and French systems, which are strongly protected, and the British system which is even now more flexible, despite the fact that the recent spate of life company failures has led to the tacit acceptance of the need for more controls. In particular, in Germany the idea of a composite insurance company transacting both general and life business at the same time is not accepted. Similarly there are problems on solvency margins before a British company would be allowed to transact business. The basic difference is that whereas the European companies rely more on cash as a mainstay, the British companies take actuarial considerations and reinsurance into the calculations. In Germany, for example, one cannot operate on small capital and reinsure the life risk on the same basis as one can in the U.K.

The same conflict is evident in the field of non-life insurance, though here more progress has been achieved. What is involved is the free movement of insurance enterprises within the EEC concerning the "right of establishment" (the right for an insurance company to establish branches in another EEC country) and the right to transact business in other member countries without being established. The first of these questions was dealt with in the 1973 directive which altered the rules to the effect that the companies no longer had put up cash deposits in other EEC countries to guarantee their liabilities, but could provide financial guarantees from the parent company. This directive became effective in February 1976 and so far has not been complied with by the Netherlands and Italy—which puts the Commission in a quandary. What it is hoping for is that the insurance companies themselves will put pressure on the national governments to alter their rules in order to comply with the directive. If they do not they could be open to legal action through the European Court in Luxembourg. So far, however, there have been no test cases and the best hope is that the two countries concerned will comply, if at a belated stage.

The next step is the directive on the provison of non-life services, where the conflict centres on the British point of view, which is that the insurance risk should be controlled in the head office of the country of origin rather than in the country where the risks exist. What is likely to emerge therefore is a compromise directive, creating a free market in certain types of risk, such as marine, aviation and transport.

The proposed directive co-ordinating the minimum standards for admission to stock exchange quotation has had a chequered career so far. It was originally submitted to the Council in 1972 but lay dormant until a few months ago when the Commission produced a revised text. There is also a separate directive on admission to listing. One of the problems with the directive on prospectuses was that the U.K. had never had a chance to make its views felt, but since then the feeling in Brussels is that the U.K. is less of an obstacle to agreement than other members of the EEC. At least the U.K. has only one stock exchange to consider whereas in Germany and France there are a number of exchanges each with their own set of rules and their own axes to grind.

Step-by-step

One common factor with all these directives is that they are taking a step-by-step approach rather than rigid all-out legislation. This includes the banking co-ordination directive which is at the Council stage and basically defines what a bank is for EEC purposes rather than laying down rules as to how it should operate. But on the standards side, there is a lot more in the pipeline than has yet appeared in the form of definite proposals. One which looks as if it should start a few hares and is at the working party stage concerns "insider dealing" in securities and the idea is to come up with a "code of conduct" for financial operations. But it is still all fairly vague and one of the problems with this and other financial directives is that events have a habit of moving faster than the men in Brussels.

Bankamerica, Citicorp earnings rise

FINANCIAL TIMES REPORTER

BANKAMERICA Corporation consolidated income before securities transactions for the three months ended March 31, 1976, rose 7.4 per cent. to $70.5m., or $1.02 per share, up from $65.8m., or 9.5 cents per share, in the first quarter of 1975.

The 7.4 per cent. year-to-year increase in operating earnings is less than the increases recorded during 1975, reflecting the profit squeeze currently affecting the banking industry. The corporation's return on average total assets decreased from 0.46 per cent. a year ago to 0.45 per cent. in the current quarter.

"Non-performing" loans reduced pre-tax earnings by $8.6m. in the first quarter of both years. Over the past 12 months, the total impact amounts to approximately 21 cents per share.

Meanwhile, Citicorp first quarter earnings per share rose to 73 cents from 68 cents previously or, fully diluted, to 69 cents from 68 cents.

The provision for possible losses on loans charged to current earnings in the first quarter of 1976 was $75.2m., $72.2m. a year ago. The provision in this year's first quarter exceeded net loan losses actually incurred in the period by $2.6m. increasing the reserve for possible losses on loans. At March 31, 1976 the reserve for possible losses on loans stood at 0.84 per cent. of loans outstanding.

German Babcock and Wilcox sues Cartel office

BY A. H. HERMANN

THE GERMAN Babcock and Wilcox will take the Federal Cartel Office to court—the Berlin Appeal Court in the first instance—in an attempt to uphold its acquisition of the 60 per cent. interest in the Artos group.

This was prohibited by the Cartel Office on March 31, 1976, on the grounds that it represents at attempt by a large and financially strong enterprise to dominate a sector of textile engineering in which mainly small and medium size firms have been active so far.

The acquisition of Artos was preceded last year by the takeover of Famatex, the other German leading maker of stretching frames and drying machines.

Babcock argues that the takeover of Artos is not subject to merger control exercised by the Cartel Office because the relevant turnover for each of the machine types on the German market is less than DM10m. annually. It does not accept the Cartel Office argument that the markets for the two machine types are connected and have to be added up, reaching a turnover of over DM10m.

Babcock further points out that Artos exports 95 per cent. of its annual output, amounting to about DM170m., so that the prohibition of the takeover has been based on a mere 5 per cent. of home market sales for this company. The appeal if successful will suspend the effectiveness of the Cartel Office prohibition.

APPOINTMENTS

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We invite applications from candidates, preferably qualified as Actuaries, aged 34-40, who have acquired at least ten years' consulting experience in the actuarial or employment benefits field. The successful candidate will be responsible for the further profitable expansion of the consulting activity of our clients through an efficient team of 20+ and the nurturing of key accounts in the U.K. and overseas. International experience, a balanced commercial judgement, considerable stamina and maintaining the high quality of advice which is an established tradition of our clients is important. Initial remuneration £12,500-£17,500 by way of high basic salary + profit sharing, car, contributory pension, free life assurance, death benefit, welfare scheme, assistance with removal expenses if necessary. Applications in strict confidence, under reference EBC3698/FT, to the Managing Director:

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MEDIUM SIZED FIRM OF STOCKBROKERS

Applications are invited from candidates aged 25-35 who will have been involved for at least the past two years in stock market research, ideally in the Building and Construction industry. Reporting to the Research Partner the successful candidate will be responsible for the maintenance of an established reputation in an allocated sector involving close direct contact with both clients and subject companies. Candidates must have a strong, commercial approach and, above all, will be currently involved in a stock market environment. Initial salary negotiable £5,500-£7,500 + significant bonus, contributory pension scheme, group BUPA, and assistance with removal expenses if necessary. Applications in strict confidence under reference RA3699/FT to the Managing Director:

CAMPBELL-JOHNSTON ASSOCIATES (MANAGEMENT RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS) LIMITED,
35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH. TEL: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374.

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Vice-President—Manufacturing

Take-charge involvement spans production, inventory control, distribution, purchasing and engineering activities of five plant sites. At least ten years' directly related experience in large-scale manufacturing operations required.

Vice-President—Controller

Must be highly qualified accountant with CPA or equivalent and a minimum of ten years' broad financial experience at executive level. Primary responsibilities will concentrate on cost controls and accounting systems/procedures.

Fluency in French essential; additional language capability desirable. Compensation fully commensurate with background and record of accomplishment. Confidential reply should indicate earnings history. Write Box F.415, Financial Times, 10, Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY.

EURO-MONEY DEALER

We are one of the oldest and best-known financial companies of the Federal Republic of Germany, and we are looking for an ambitious Euro-Money Dealer aged 27/36 with British nationality.

The man required should be qualified in this special field and should have a minimum of 4 years' experience of money-dealing with British and international banks.

We have in mind to open a branch in London within the next 12-18 months. Up to this date our dealer will stay with us in our head-office in Germany.

A working knowledge of French/German would be useful. Fixed salary plus participation of brokerage depending on experience.

Please write your application in strictest confidence with hand-written curriculum vitae to:

BOX NO. F414, FINANCIAL TIMES
10 CANNON STREET, EC4P 4BY

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With Indonesian Development Finance Company to assist in preparation of appropriate operational and administrative manuals, recruitment of staff, development of in-training facilities and to provide staff training; to advise and assist within framework of IDFC's operations, Indonesian entrepreneurs in identification, formulation and preparation of viable developmental projects and help Indonesian investors on these matters for the promotion and development of joint ventures.

Applicants preferably over 30 years should have not only requisite academic and technical knowledge but also relevant operational experience as a development banker; experience essential in accountancy and economics, particularly project appraisal and financial management. Appointment 2-3 years.

Salary in region of £10,000 p.a. plus variable tax free overseas allowance in range £1,335—£2,540 p.a.

Other benefits include free family passages, paid leave, children's education allowances and free accommodation and medical attention. All emoluments paid by the British Government. Applicants should be citizens of the United Kingdom. For further information and application form please apply giving age, and brief details of qualifications and experience to:—

Appointments Officer
Room E301
Ministry of Overseas Development
Eland House,
Stag Place
London SW1E 5DH

SHIP REPAIR ESTIMATOR

required by International Shipping Company based in Monte Carlo.

Applicants should be technically qualified and be experienced in the costing of hull and machinery repairs for all types of vessels.

The work will involve costing of repair and conversion specifications, checking of repair accounts and preparation of maintenance and repair budgets.

The common language within the office is English but knowledge of other European languages will be of advantage.

Write Box F.411, Financial Times
10 Cannon Street, EC4P 4BY

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LEGAL NOTICES

No. 00891 of 1976

In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court. In the Matter of WOLFRIDGE LIMITED and in the Matter of The Companies Act, 1948.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the Winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 11th day of March 1976, presented to the said Court by DOE ENGINEERING LIMITED whose registered office is at Fergusons Wharf, West Ferry Road, London E14 8RN, commercial vehicle engineers, and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on the 3rd day of May 1976, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing, in person or by his counsel, for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

H. DAVIS & CO.,
42, Brook Street,
London W1Y 2ES.
(Ref: NAL).
Solicitors for the Petitioner.

NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on, or send by post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 30th day of April 1976.

No. 001353 of 1976

In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court. In the Matter of SWIMWELL LIMITED and in the Matter of The Companies Act, 1948.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the Winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 9th day of April 1976, presented to the said Court by T. RANDELL & SON LIMITED whose registered office is situate at Church Lane, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks, Builders Merchants, and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on the 10th day of May 1976, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing, in person or by his counsel, for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

BRABY & WALLER,
2/3 Hind Court,
Fleet Street,
London EC4A 3DS
Solicitors for the Petitioner.

NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on, or send by post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th day of May 1976.

No. 001261 of 1976

In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court. In the Matter of BRIDGETON BUILDERS LIMITED and in the Matter of The Companies Act, 1948.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the Winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 12th day of April 1976, presented to the said Court by the COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE of King's Beam House, 39-41, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on the 17th day of May 1976, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing, in person or by his Counsel, for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

G. KRIKORIAN,
King's Beam House,
39-41, Mark Lane,
London EC3R 7HE.
Solicitor to the Petitioners.

NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on, or send by post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 14th day of May 1976.

No. 001156 of 1976

In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court. In the Matter of VALUE-VATAX LIMITED (formerly CAPITAL AND SUBURBAN INVESTMENTS LIMITED and in the Matter of The Companies Act, 1948.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the Winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 2nd day of April 1976, presented to the said Court by HARDY & CO. (FURNISHERS) LIMITED whose registered office is at 21, Low Friar Street, Newcastle Upon Tyne, and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on the 10th day of May 1976, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing, in person or by his counsel, for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

FORSYTE, KERMAN & PHILLIPS,
11, Mansfield Street,
Portland Place,
London W1M 0AH.
Solicitors for the Petitioner.

NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on, or send by post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th day of May 1976.

No. 001251 of 1976

In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court. In the Matter of ROOKBRAE SECURITIES LIMITED and in the Matter of The Companies Act, 1948.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the Winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 5th day of April 1976, presented to the said Court by PHOENIX PRESERVATION LIMITED whose registered office is situate at Phoenix House, Manor Way, New Road, Rainham, Essex, Wood Preservation Specialists, and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on the 10th day of May 1976, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing, in person or by his counsel, for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

BRABY & WALLER,
2/3 Hind Court,
Fleet Street,
London EC4A 3DS.
Solicitors for the Petitioner.

NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on, or send by post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 7th day of May 1976.

No. 001265 of 1976

In the HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE Chancery Division Companies Court. In the Matter of THAMES VAN SERVICE LIMITED and in the Matter of The Companies Act, 1948.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that a Petition for the Winding up of the above-named Company by the High Court of Justice was on the 12th day of April 1976, presented to the said Court by the COMMISSIONERS OF CUSTOMS AND EXCISE of King's Beam House, 39-41, Mark Lane, London EC3R 7HE, and that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Court sitting at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on the 17th day of May 1976, and any creditor or contributory of the said Company desirous to support or oppose the making of an Order on the said Petition may appear at the time of hearing, in person or by his Counsel, for that purpose; and a copy of the Petition will be furnished by the undersigned to any creditor or contributory of the said Company requiring such copy on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

G. KRIKORIAN,
King's Beam House,
39-41, Mark Lane,
London EC3R 7HE.
Solicitor to the Petitioners.

NOTE.—Any person who intends to appear on the hearing of the said Petition must serve on, or send by post to, the above-named notice in writing of his intention so to do. The notice must state the name and address of the person, or, if a firm, the name and address of the firm and must be signed by the person or firm, or his or their solicitor (if any) and must be served, or, if posted, must be sent by post in sufficient time to reach the above-named not later than four o'clock in the afternoon of the 14th day of May 1976.

COMPANY NOTICES

UNILEVER N.V.
Rotterdam, The Netherlands

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

On Wednesday, May 12, 1976 at 10.30 a.m. at the Company's office at Burgemeester s'Jacobplein 1, Rotterdam

AGENDA

1. Annual Report for 1975.
2. Approval and adoption of the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account for 1975 and adoption of the proposed Profit Appropriation for 1975.
3. Appointment of the Board of Directors.
4. Appointment of Auditors.
5. Questions.

This agenda, the Annual Report for 1975 including the Balance Sheet, the Profit and Loss Account, the proposed Profit Appropriation and the nominations relating to items 3 and 4 of the agenda are available for inspection by shareholders and holders of certificates issued by N.V. Nederlandsch Administratie- en Trustkantoor at the Company's office, Rotterdam, and at the offices of the Banks mentioned below, where copies may be obtained free of charge.

(A) Holders of bearer shares or sub-shares wishing to attend the meeting either in person or by proxy appointed in writing must deposit their share certificates and sub-share certificates by Wednesday, May 5, 1976, at the Company's office or at the offices of the Amsterdam-Rotterdam Bank N.V. in Amsterdam, Rotterdam or The Hague, of the Kredietbank in Antwerp, the Generale Bankmaatschappij or Bank Brussel Lambert in Brussels, of Midland Bank Limited in London, or any of its branches, of Banque Rothschild in Paris, of the Dresdner Bank A.G., or the Deutsche Bank A.G. in Hamburg, Dusseldorf, Frankfurt-am-Main, or Munich or the Bank für Handel und Industrie A.G. or the Berliner Disconto Bank A.G. in Berlin, of the Creditanstalt-Bankverein, the Oesterreichische Länderbank Aktiengesellschaft or Schoeller & Co. in Vienna or any of their branches, of the Schweizerischer Bankverein (Swiss Bank Corporation), the Schweizerische Kreditanstalt (Swiss Credit Bank) in Zurich, Geneva, Basle or Lausanne or of Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York in New York City. Upon production of the receipt, then issued to them such holders will be admitted to the meeting.

(B) Holders of registered shares, certificates for which are countersigned by Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, New York, wishing to attend the meeting either in person or by proxy appointed in writing must notify the Company of their intention on the form provided by the Company (or by letter, stating the numbers of their share certificates), which must reach Morgan Guaranty Trust Company of New York, 30 West Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10015, by Wednesday, May 5, 1976.

(C) Holders of registered shares for which certificates have been issued in another form and holders of booked shares wishing to attend the meeting either in person or by proxy appointed in writing must notify the Company of their intention by letter, stating the numbers of the share certificates or of the bookings for the shares, which must reach Unilever N.V., Afdeling Effecten en Coupons, Rotterdam, by Wednesday, May 5, 1976.

(D) Holders of certificates for shares in Unilever N.V. issued by N.V. Nederlandsch Administratie- en Trustkantoor of Amsterdam ("Nedamtrust certificates") wishing to attend the meeting without taking part in the voting must deposit such certificates by Wednesday, May 5, 1976 at any of the offices mentioned in (A) above. Upon production of the receipt then issued to them, such certificate holders will be admitted to the meeting.

(E) If holders of the certificates mentioned in (D) above wish to exercise voting rights at the meeting either in person or by proxy appointed in writing, N.V. Nederlandsch Administratie- en Trustkantoor will exchange such certificates free of charge for original shares, which it will hold in the names of such holders at its own office (such office being the designated place of deposit in the event) and exchange the same again after the meeting free of charge for Nedamtrust certificates to be issued to such holders in accordance with the conditions of administration. For such purpose holders must by Tuesday, May 4, 1976:

surrender their certificates for Fl. 20 or a multiple thereof (but, in the case of certificates for 7% cumulative preference shares, representing a total nominal amount of Fl. 1,000 or a multiple thereof) to N.V. Nederlandsch Administratie- en Trustkantoor, Keizersgracht 558, Amsterdam, and

surrender their sub-share certificates for Fl. 12 nominal amount or multiples thereof, representing a total nominal amount of at least Fl. 60 per class (but, in the case of sub-share certificates for 7% cumulative preference shares, representing a total nominal amount of Fl. 1,000 or a multiple thereof) to Midland Bank Limited, Mariner House, Pepys Street, London EC3N 4DA or any of its branches.

The certificates so surrendered must be accompanied by a request in writing as described in the conditions of administration, forms for this purpose being obtainable free of charge from N.V. Nederlandsch Administratie- en Trustkantoor, Amsterdam, and Midland Bank Limited, London. Upon production of the receipts then issued by N.V. Nederlandsch Administratie- en Trustkantoor and Midland Bank Limited respectively the holders will be admitted to the meeting.

The receipt issued by Midland Bank Limited for sub-share certificates so surrendered incorporates a two-way proxy form.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
Rotterdam, April 21, 1976.

SELECTED RISK INVESTMENTS S.A.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

The Annual General Meeting of shareholders of Selected Risk Investments S.A. will be held at its registered office at 10, Boulevard Roosevelt, Luxembourg, at 11 o'clock a.m., on 17th May, 1976, for the purpose of considering and voting upon the following matters:

1. To accept the Directors' and Auditors' reports and to approve the financial statements for the year ended 31st December, 1975.
2. To approve the appropriation of the net profit and to declare a dividend for 1975 of US\$0.25, as recommended by the Board, and fix its date of payment.
3. To discharge the Directors and the Auditor from their responsibilities for all actions taken during the year 1975.
4. To determine the Directors' emoluments for 1976.
5. To determine the Auditor's fees for 1975 and to elect the Auditor for 1976.
6. To ratify the appointment by the Board of LIONEL D. EDIE & Co. INTERNATIONAL, LTD., as a joint investment advisor. To confirm the appointment and the remuneration of the investment advisors for 1976.
7. To approve the proposal of the Board to cancel the publication of the quarterly reports as from 31st March, 1976, and to amend the explanatory memorandum accordingly. To authorise the Board to reinstate the publication of quarterly information at a later date if they regard it as desirable.
8. To decide on any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

Each of the resolutions set out above may be passed by a simple majority of the votes cast thereon at the meeting.

The shareholders are advised that no quorum for the statutory meeting is required and that decisions will be taken by the majority of the shares represented at the meeting, with the restriction that no shareholder, either by himself or by proxy, can vote for a shareholding in excess of one fifth of the shares issued or two fifths of the shares represented at the meeting.

In order to participate in the statutory meeting:

—the owners of bearer shares must deposit their shares, not later than 11th May, 1976, either at the registered office of the company, or with any bank or financial institution acceptable to the company, and the relative deposit receipts must be forwarded to the registered office of the company: CASE POSTALE 408, LUXEMBOURG. The shares will remain blocked until the day after the meeting.

—the owners of registered shares need not deposit their certificates.

Shareholders who cannot attend the meeting in person are invited to send a duly completed and signed proxy form to the registered office of the company: CASE POSTALE 408, LUXEMBOURG.

No Director has entered into a contract of significance with the company.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.
10, Boulevard Roosevelt,
Luxembourg.
21st April, 1976.

PUBLIC NOTICES

BRIGHTON BOROUGH COUNCIL BILLS

£1,500,000 issued 21st April 1976 due 21st July 1976 at 8 29/64%. Applications totalled £4,950,000. There are no bills outstanding.

Mystery bid scores with Rangers shares

WITHIN three minutes yesterday an undisclosed party had amassed 36,300 Ordinary shares of Rangers Football Club, present leader of the premier division of the Scottish League, for an outlay of £295,845.

This abnormal block of shares, part of the estate of a former chairman of the Glasgow club, the late Mr. Matthew Taylor, was sold on the floor of the Scottish stock exchange in Glasgow for £8.15 a share. Earlier this year Rangers shares, which give holders social prestige in Scotland, had changed hands at between £7 and £8 a share. Before the auction the share price stood at £7.25. Immediately after, it was at £7.75. The batch on offer represented 10 per cent. of the share capital of the club.

They were auctioned by Mr. William Carmichael, senior partner of a firm of City brokers. There were three bidders, one of which is thought to have been the Rangers Board. Bidding started at the reserve price of £5 going up to £6 by the old fashioned method of one-sixteenth of a pound and thereafter in decimal units.

The undisclosed client was represented by the stockbroking firm of Keir Anderson Miller and Stevenson. Mr. William Qualle, a partner in the brokers, told reporters afterwards: "I'm afraid I cannot say very much to you as we do not disclose anything about our clients as a matter of principle."

He promised to get in touch with the client and convey a message to the stock exchange in half an hour, but an official of the exchange said: "Mr. Qualle has been in touch with the client who does not wish to talk to the Press."

There has been a constant struggle among major holders of Rangers shares for a seat on the Board for which there are two vacancies at the moment and the present directors have made it plain that the present size of the Board, five members, is sufficient.

MP's call for reform of Parliament

MAJOR constitutional reforms are needed "if power is to be wrested back from Number 10 and Whitehall," a Conservative MP said yesterday.

Mr. Anthony Grant (Harrow Central) told the Lunchtime Comment Club in London that Parliament was "increasingly becoming putty in the palm of the Premier", who chose Ministers and even named election day.

The MP called for five reforms to be considered, aimed at returning power to the people through their MPs: Fixed-term elections; shorter Parliamentary sessions; fewer MPs, but with a streamlining of their responsibilities; better pension or compensation provisions for MPs to ensure no one was barred from Parliament on financial grounds; a limit on the time one MP can represent one constituency.

Error delays authors' Bill

AUTHORS may have to wait another year for the right to payment when their books are borrowed from public libraries, the Library Association's magazine warns.

This month's edition of the Library Association Record warns that the recently introduced legislation may be killed because of a procedural error by the Government. Even if it is reintroduced in the Commons it could not become law until April, 1977.

It claims that the House of Commons will probably "lay aside" the Public Lending Right Bill, because it proposes added public expenditure. This is because the Bill originated in the Lords, and it is a breach of their privilege to initiate money Bills.

The Record recalls that the same mistake was made in 1963 with the Legal Aid Bill which the Government was forced to abandon because it began its committee stage in the Lords.

Top people are leaving London

BRITAIN'S peers are feeling the pinch. That is the message of a new economy-sized Debrett's guide to the aristocracy—published to-day to mark the Queen's 50th birthday.

Mounting living costs are sending the top people to the hills—deserting the graceful squares of Mayfair, Belgravia and Kensington.

Debrett editor Patrick W. Montague-Smith notes in a preface: "During the course of preparation of this edition it has been very noticeable that there has been wholesale movement of those mentioned in Debrett from London to the country.

"Those who have two addresses have often deleted the London house or flat. These moves are doubtless due to the high cost of living in London."

Just in case anyone might imagine Marquesses and Viscounts might be favouring semis in Edgware or maisonettes in Croydon this year, Mr. Montague-Smith adds: "Few seem to have moved to the outer suburbs.

Smaller

"The most popular districts are the Home Counties, the West Country, the Cotswolds and East Anglia."

The new volume is nearly 1,000 pages smaller than before. This means that humble knights and companions of chivalry orders no longer have the satisfaction of sharing this famous book with the Royal Family and dukes. Instead, they will have entries in the less prestigious Kellys Handbook, produced by the same publisher.

The change allows shortening of the volume's former title, Debrett's Peerage, Baronetage and Companionage.

As from the previous edition in 1973, Debrett's has ceased being an annual publication. But the economies have not stopped the price going up from £22.50 last time to £25 or £30, depending on the binding.

Debrett: Kelly's Directories, £25.

WALL STREET + OVERSEAS MARKETS + FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Early advance on bullish statistics

BY OUR WALL STREET CORRESPONDENT

NEW YORK, April 20.

THE UPWARD TREND continued on Wall Street to-day, responding largely to bullish statistics on the nation's economy and also favourable Corporate earnings statements.

By mid-day the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained another 5.83 to 993.94 *and the NYSE All* Common Index further improved 40 cents to $54.36, while more than three times as many issues *advanced as declined. But the trading volume was still moderate at* 9.88m. shares.

The Commerce Department yesterday reported a 7.5 per cent. rise in U.S. real Gross National Product in the first quarter, and also said that inflation continued to moderate.

MONDAY'S ACTIVE STOCKS

	Stocks traded	Closing price	Change on day
Cst. St. Gas	443,100	8⅞	—
Tex. Util.	213,300	18⅛	−⅛
Sony Corp.	211,000	8⅞	−⅛
Texaco	199,500	25⅞	—
Am. Tel. & Tel.	193,300	55⅞	+⅛
Southern Corp.	176,600	15	−⅛
Polaroid	161,600	35⅛	−¼
Chrysler	156,900	20⅝	—
Coca Bottling NY	132,800	8⅞	+⅛
Gen. Motors	129,700	70	−⅛
Westghs. Electric	124,800	15⅝	+⅛

Among the issues responding to bullish earnings were Soo Line Railroad, up $1½ to $31⅞, Inmont $⅞ to $11⅞, Burlington Industries $⅞ to $39⅞, and Metromedia $1¼ to $23¼.

Also higher were IBM, ahead $1⅞ to $260⅞, Walt Disney $1⅛ to $57¼, Emery Air Freight $1⅞ to $43¼, and Halliburton $2⅜ to $149⅜.

Xerox put on $1¼ to $54, Northrop $2¼ to $35, Franklin Mint $1¼ to $34¼, Standard Brands $1¼ to $35⅞, and Du Pont $1 to $148⅞.

But Eastman Kodak fell $1½ to $114¾—it introduced a line of instant cameras with a starting price of $53.50. Polaroid, the leader in the field of instant photography, gained $1⅝ to $35.

Closing prices and market reports were not available for this edition.

Square D were lifted $1¼ to $28⅞ on sharply higher earnings.

The American SE Market Value Index rose 0.38 to 102.47, while the *turnover approximated 1m. shares.*

Syntex, among the volume leaders, held unchanged at $28⅞.

Houston Oil and Minerals *improved $⅞ to $48¼.*

Canada up again

Canadian Stock Markets gained further slightly ground yesterday morning.

The Industrial Share Index rose 0.38 to 190.76, Western Oils 0.44 to 217.94, Utilities 1.05 to 138.50, Banks 0.05 to 249.46 and Papers 0.51 to 125.04. But Golds lost 2.04 to 278.61 and Base Metals eased 0.40 to 88.14.

Northern Telecom moved up $1⅞ to $36⅞, while Nowsco Well Service advanced $1¼ to $15⅞ following its higher first-quarter earnings.

Bow Valley Industries put on $⅞ to $22, Husky Oil gained $⅞ to $21⅛, Massey Ferguson were up $⅞ to $27⅞, Moore firmed $¼ to $47⅞ and Bell Canada were $⅞ higher at $46⅞.

OTHER MARKETS

PARIS—Market edged lower in *quiet trading, with most investors* awaiting further details of Government's plan to introduce Capital Gains Tax.

But Properties and Foods were mixed, while Transports were steady.

In the Foreign sector, ITT led Americans higher, Dutch and International Oils were steady. Germans and Golds mixed, while Coppers were weak.

BRUSSELS—Mixed in very quiet trading.

Steels declined. Metals were lower and Electricals also gave *ground.*

Oils finished little changed.

U.S. shares gained ground. Dutch issues were strong. French stocks firm, but Germans eased. South African Gold Mines improved.

AMSTERDAM — Generally firmer in quiet trading.

Shippings rose, with KNSM up Fs.5.50 after announcing a maintained dividend on slightly lower profit.

Banks and Insurances were generally firmer.

Amey advanced Fs.3.80 to 59.5 *on its higher dividend and profit* news. Ahold firmed slightly—its 1976 result would "at least equal last year's."

Bols put on Fs.2 after Heineken, up Fs.1.3 detailed its bid terms.

State Loans eased in quiet conditions.

GERMANY — Predominantly lower in quiet trading.

Banks were mixed to lower. Electricals weaker, Chemicals mixed, as were Motors and Machine Makers, Steels mostly higher, while Metals were lower.

Minings gained ground. Utilities were generally lower. Stores also were mostly lower, while Breweries were about steady.

Domestic Public Bonds fluctuated slightly either way. Deutsche Bundesbank bought *about DM700,000 of Public Bonds.*

MILAN—Firmer in not very active trading. Recent official restrictions, effective to-day, on speculative forward selling dampened activity.

Bonds were mainly resistant.

SWITZERLAND — Higher in quiet trading.

Swiss Re-Insurance rose Frs.75 to 4325 and Sandoz non-voting Frs.125 to 5,330.

Bally, a maker of footwear, non-voting shares were up Frs.55 to 805.

Juvena, a cosmetic producer, improved Frs.15 to 350.

State Bonds were steady in moderate dealings.

Dollar stocks moved up in moderate trading, *Dutch Internationals* were little changed, while Germans were quietly steady.

OSLO—Bankings barely steady, Insurances little changed, Industrials steadier, Shippings quiet.

VIENNA—Quietly steady.

COPENHAGEN — Narrowly mixed, with Banks little changed, Insurances and Communications mixed, Shippings lower.

TOKYO—Firm in active trading, despite shortened trading hours due to the railway strike. Volume 200m. shares.

Electricals and Export-oriented shares *in demand, while* Constructions, Heavy Electric Machinery and Shipbuildings also rose on forecasts real capital investment *would show a real increase in* 1976 for the first time in three years.

Nichiban climbed Y43 to 283 on merger moves with a privately owned pharmaceutical firm.

HONG KONG—Generally higher in sluggish trading.

Hong Kong Bank were *up* 30 cents to $HK20.50, Hutchison 10 cents to $HK3.15, Jardine 30 cents to $HK26.20, Swire Pacific "A" 40 *cents* to $HK9.70 and Hong Kong and Kowloon Wharf 40 cents to $HK16.90.

But Hong Kong Land were down 5 cents to $HK7.95.

JOHANNESBURG — Marginally higher in quiet trading. "Heavyweights" gained up to 10 cents, *while "marginal" and "speculative"* issues firmed up to 5 cents.

Mining Financials were firmer. In Coppers, Messina put on 45 *cents to R395.*

Platinums hardened and, in other Metals, Consolidated Murchison were up 25 cents to R12.00.

AUSTRALIA—Generally unsettled in dull trading.

Stocks and Holdings rose 10 cents to $A3.50, and BMI 6 cents to $A1.08.

Among Mines, Queensland Mines dropped 10 cents to $A2.35.

Poseidon put on 5 cents to $A1.75 and Utah 5 cents to $A3.30.

Western Mining firmed 2 cents to $A1.62 on Homestake Mining of the U.S. plan to inject $8m. into gold operations in Kalgoorlie.

Oils were dull, but Ampol Explorations gained 2 cents to 88 cents.

In Industrials, BHP rose 2 cents to $S7.16, *despite news that one* of its units would not pay a dividend this year.

Pound weaker

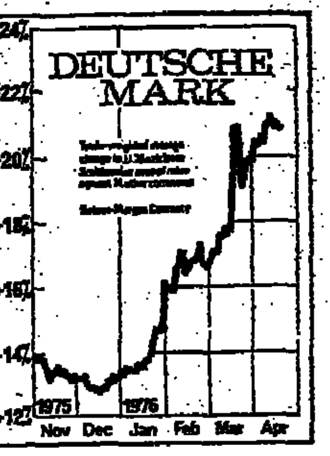
Sterling fell sharply in early dealings in the foreign exchange market yesterday, but improved during the rest of the day, with little indication of support from the Bank of England. The pound touched $1.8420-1.8430, at around 10 a.m. following selling from the Continent, which may have been the result of diversification from sterling into Swiss francs and West German marks by Middle Eastern oil exporters. This follows a gain of almost 1 cent by the pound on Tuesday of last week, which was believed to have been caused by purchases of sterling for quarterly oil payments.

The pound opened $1.8550-1.8560, its best level of the day, and after the sharp fall, improved in the afternoon to touch $1.85, before closing at $1.8480-1.8490, a fall of 45 points on the day. Sterling's trade-weighted depreciation since the Washington currency agreement of December 1971, as calculated by the Bank of England, widened to 36.7 per cent. from 36.3 per cent., after standing at 36.4 per cent. in early dealings and touching 36.8 per cent. at noon.

The Swiss franc continued to improve on expectation of controls on the import of banknotes, closing at Sw.Frs.2.52 against the U.S. dollar, compared with Sw.Frs.2.5240 on Thursday. Its trade-weighted appreciation since December 1971, as calculated by Morgan Guaranty of New York, widened to 38.52 per cent. from 38.45 per cent. on Friday.

The dollar's depreciation, on the Morgan Guaranty basis, widened to 1.73 per cent. from 1.65 per cent. on Friday.

Gold finished unchanged at $127½-128¼, in quiet trading. The krugerrand was quoted at $131½-133½ (£71-72) in the domestic market, and its premium over the gold content narrowed to 3.32 per cent. from 3.71 per cent., but was unchanged at 3.12 per cent. for international delivery.



SPECIAL DRAWING RIGHT RATES

One SDR is equal to	April 19	April 16
Sterling		0.505474
U.S. dollar	1.15145	1.15178
Belgian franc	—	45.9249
Deutsche mark	—	3.06809
French franc	—	5.82126
Italian lira	—	779.746
Japanese yen	345.032	343.775
Dutch guilder	—	3.20316
Swedish krone	—	5.31489
Swiss franc	—	3.19548

Values are for currencies against the SDR as calculated by the International Monetary Fund in Washington.

EXCHANGE CROSS-RATES

April 20	Frankfurt	New York	Paris	Brussels	London	Amsterdam	Zurich
Frankfurt	—	2.5345-55	54.25-35	6.60-61	4.67-68	94.40-50	100.55-65
N. York*	39.41-43	—	21.57-59	2.49-495	1.8545-55	37.25-27	39.57-59
Paris	184.20-60	4.6627-6727	—	11.98-015	8.600-825	173.81-2	180.20-60
Brussels	15.56-48	32.93-98	8.33-35	—	71.75-90	14.51-54	15.45-43
London	4.62-63	1.848-849	8.62-63	71.95-72.15*	—	4.953-965	4.66-66
Am'erd'm	105.89-94	2.6812-37	57.45-60	6.889-694	4.945-950	—	106.27-62
Zurich	99.42-51	2.5187-5207	53.93-98	6.46-47	4.656-680	93.85-94	—

U.S. $ in Montreal. U.S. $=98.58-60 Canadian cents.
Canadian $ in New York. C$=101.40-42 U.S. cents. U.S. $ in Milan 875.0-877.00
Sterling in Milan 1615.0-1617.2. * Rates for April 19.

EURO-CURRENCY INTEREST RATES*

April 20 1976	Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Canadian Dollar	Dutch Guilder	W.-German mark	Swiss franc
†Short term	8½-8	4⅝-5⅛	7¼-8¼	2-2½	2⅝-2⅞	⅜-⅝
7 days notice	8¾-9¼	4¾-5¼	8-9	2-2½	2¾-3	⅝-⅞
Month	8⅝-8⅞	4¾-5¼	8⅝-8⅞	2⅝-2⅞	3⅛-3⅜	[illegible]
Three months	10⅛-10⅜	5⅛-5⅝	9⅝-9⅞	3-3¼	3¼-3⅝	[illegible]
Six months	10⅝-11	5¾-6⅛	9⅞-10⅛	3⅝-4	3⅜-3¾	[illegible]
One year	11⅛-11⅜	6½-7	10-10¼	4¾-5	4⅜-4⅝	[illegible]

Euro-French deposit rate: two-day 7¾-8¼ per cent.; seven-day 7¾-8¼ per cent.; one-month 10¼-10⅝ per cent.; three-month 12-12½ per cent.; six-month 12-12½ per cent.; one year 10¾-11¼ per cent.

Longer-term Eurodollar deposits: two years 7½-7¾ per cent.; three years 8¼-8½ per cent.; four years 8½-8¾ per cent.; five years 8¾-9 per cent.

The following nominal rates were quoted for London dollar certificates on deposit: one month 4 15/16-5 1/16 per cent.; three months 5 3/16-5 5/16 per cent.; six months 5½-5⅝ per cent.; one year 6⅛-6⅜ per cent.

* Rates are nominal closing rates.

† Short-term rates are call for sterling, U.S. dollars and Canadian dollars, two-days' notice for guilders and Swiss francs.

GOLD MA

Gold Bullion (a fine ounce)
Close $127½-
Opening $127¾
Morning fix'g $128.0
(£69.3
Afternoon fix'g $127.8
(£69.2

Gold Coins (domestically)
Krugerrand $131½
(£71-7
NewSov'rgns $46-48
(£25-2
Old Sov'rgns $44-46
(£24-2

Gold Coins (Intern'ly)
Krugerrand $131-
£70¾
NewSov'rgns $46½-
£25¼
Old Sov'rgns $42¾-
£23¼
$20 Eagles $214-
$10 Eagles $110-
$5 Eagles $76-8

FOREIGN EXC

April 20 1976	Bank Rate %
New York	5½
Montreal	9½
Amsterdam	4
Brussels	7
Copenh'gen	8½
Frankfurt	3½
Lisbon	6½
Madrid	7
Milan	12
Oslo	5
Paris	8
Stockholm	5½
Tokyo	6½
Vienna	6
Zurich	2½

* Basic discount. convertible francs. 73.95-74.20.

OTHER

◆Argentina 258.30-25
Australia 1.4806-1.
Brazil 18.85-19
Finland 7.09-7.
Greece 66.720-68
H'ngKong 8.1075-8.
Iran 127.12
Kuwait 0.540-0.
Luxemb'g 71.86-72
Malaysia 4.7510-4.
N.Zealand 1.8861-1.
Saudi Arab. 6.50-6.
Singapore 4.5829-4.
S. Africa 1.5891-1.
U.S.—
Canada
C$1—
U.S. cents 101.58-10

Based on rate dealers. ◆ Rate BCRA rate 438.91

FORWARD R

—	One
New York	0.78-0.
Montreal	0.85c.pm
Amst'dam	3¼-2¼
Brussels	15-40 c
Cop'nh'g'n	2½-4½
Frankfurt	3⅛-2⅛
Lisbon	par-100
Madrid	80-130
Milan	36-46 l
Oslo	par-2 o
Paris	par-2 c
Stockh'lm	3-1 ore
Vienna	25-5 gr
Zurich	3¼-2¼

Six-month forw pm and 12-mont

Indices

NEW YORK—*DOW JONES*

	April 19	April 16	April 14	April 13	April 12	April 9	1976 High	1976 Low	Since compilat'n High	Since compilat'n Low
Industrials	988.11	980.46	974.65	984.26	971.27	968.28	1,009.21 (24/3)	858.71 (2/1)	1051.70 (11/1/73)	41.22 (8/7/32)
Home Bonds	75.50	75.65	75.57	75.64	75.25	75.27	75.55 (15/4)	69.11 (2/1)	—	—
Transport	206.51	204.25	201.51	201.94	200.88	202.34	211.67 (11/3)	175.69 (2/1)	279.88 (7/2/69)	13.23 (8/7/32)
Utilities	87.07	87.17	88.16	88.11	85.76	86.78	91.90 (4/2)	84.84 (2/1)	163.32 (20/4/65)	10.58 (28/4/42)
Tr'ding vol 000's	16,600	15,100	18,440	15,390	16,050	19,050	—	—	—	—

	April 19	April 9	April 2	Year ago (approx.)
Ind. div. yield %	3.76	3.81	3.72	4.88

STANDARD AND POORS

	April 19	April 16	April 14	April 13	April 12	April 9	1976 High	1976 Low	Since compilat'n High	Since compilat'n Low
*Industrials	114.13	113.21	112.82	113.71	112.69	112.85	116.67 (24/3)	101.64 (2/1)	134.54 (11/1/73)	3.52 (30/6/32)
†Composite	101.44	100.67	100.31	101.06	100.20	100.55	105.61 (5/4)	90.90 (2/1)	120.24 (11/1/73)	4.40 (1/6/32)

	April 19	April 16	April 8	Year ago (approx.)
Ind. div. yield %	3.76	3.57	3.30	3.89
Ind. P/E Ratio	—	13.58	13.85	9.80
Long Govt. Bond yield	—	6.40	6.50	6.19

N.Y. S.E. ALL COMMON.

April 19	April 16	April 14	April 13	1976 High	1976 Low
55.96	55.55	55.55	55.73	55.20 (5/4/76)	47.06 (2/1/76)

Rises and Falls April 19

Issues Traded—1,919 Up—1,012
Down—476 Same—431
New Highs—48 New Lows—21

MONTREAL	April 19	April 16	April 14	April 13	1976 High		1976 Low	
Industrial	199.46	193.87	198.85	196.77	206.67	(24/2)	176.62	(2/1)
Combined	192.44	191.75	191.62	191.28	199.87	(24/2)	173.67	(2/1)
TORONTO Industrial	190.18	189.49	188.92	188.78	197.46	(20/2)	175.01	(2/1)
JOHANNESBURG Gold	—	180.3	182.8	185.0	225.7	(14/5)	174.4	(5/4)
Industrials	—	202.3	202.5	201.6	212.6	(2/1)	198.6	(5/4)

	April 20	Previous	1976 High	1976 Low
Australia (a)	448.37	449.20	472.91 (12/3)	445.52 (6/1)
Belgium (b)	104.54	104.78	115.12 (5/2)	104.54 (20/4)
Denmark (d)	105.44	105.60	107.79 (27/1)	100.20 (10/6)
France (e)	67.0	66.9	74.5 (5/3)	56.9 (15/4)
Germany (f)	799.0	795.7	821.7 (17/3)	766.6 (22/1)
Holland (g)	102.1	102.2	105.3 (5/2)	93.8 (29/1)
Hongkong (h)	423.41	423.59	465.55 (17/3)	354.55 (2/1)
Italy (k)	73.99	78.38	81.57 (25/2)	72.23 (12/4)
Japan (m)	334.10	331.83	344.61 (24/3)	326.22 (6/1)
Singapore (n)	259.38	257.20	266.16 (3/2)	256.3 (2/1)
Spain (p)	86.82	85.35	95.66 (2/1)	83.45 (1/4)
Sweden (q)	454.70	451.20	455.82 (7/4)	385.50 (19/1)
Switz'rl'd (r)	286.6	285.1	298.6 (12/3)	285.2 (8/4)

Indices and base dates (all base values 100 except NYSE All Common—50, and Standards and Poors 10): (a) Sydney All Ord. (b) Belgian SE 31/12/63. (d) Copenhagen SE 1/1/73. (e) Paris Bourse 1961. (f) Commerzbank December, 1953. (g) Amsterdam Industrial 1970. (h) Hang Seng Bank 31/7/64. (k) Milan 2/1/73. (m) Tokyo New SE 4/1/68. (n) Straits Times 1966. (p) Madrid *SE 31/12/74. (q) Stockholm* Industrials 1/1/58. (r) Swiss Bank Corp. 31/12/58. (u) Unavailable. ‡ Excluding bonds. * 425 Industrials. † 425 Inds., 50 Utilities and 25 Rails.

OVERSEAS SHARE INFORMATION

Investment premium based on $2.60 per £—105% (103%).

NEW YORK

Stock	April 19	April 16
Addressograph	9⅝	9⅝
Aetna Life & Cas.	25⅝	25¼
Air Products	78¼	77
Airco	24½	23½
Alcan Aluminium	28⅛	27¼
Alcoa	49½	47¾
Allegheny Ludlm.	39	39⅛
Allegheny Power	17¾	17½
Allied Chemical	40	39½
Allied Stores	51⅞	52
Allis Chalmers	17½	16¾
Amax	55⅝	55¾
Amerada Hess	19⅛	19⅛
Amer. Airlines	9¾	9⅝
Amer. Brands	41¾	41⅛
Amer. Broadcast	26¾	27⅛
Amer. Can	33½	33½
Amer. Cyanamid	24½	24⅞
Amer. Elec. Power	22⅝	22⅝
Americ'n Express	32⅝	32½
Amer. Home Prod	34⅝	34¾
Amer. Medical	8⅛	8¾
Amer. Motors	6⅝	5⅞
Amer. Nat. Gas	34¾	34⅝
Amer. Standard	25¾	25¾
American Stores	27¾	27⅝
Amer. Tel. & Tel.	55¾	55½
AMF	20	19⅝
Ampex	7⅝	7⅛
Anaconda	24½	24⅛
Anchor Hocking	29	28⅜
Anheuser Busch	32⅛	32¼
Armco Steel	31¾	31½
A.S.A.	24½	23
Asamera Oil	11⅝	11⅞
Asarco	18¼	17⅞
Ashland Oil	27½	27⅝
Atl. Richfield	89½	90¼
AVC	12¼	12⅛
Avco	10⅞	10⅛
Avis	9¾	9⅝
Avon Products	39⅞	39⅝
Balt. Gas Elect.	23	25
Bank America	53½	52⅛
Bankers Tr. N.Y.	32⅝	35
Barber Oil	26½	26⅝
Beatrice Foods	23⅝	23¼
Becton Dickins'n	37⅝	37
Bell & Howell	21⅝	21⅞
Bendix	41⅛	40¾
Benguet Cons. 'B'	2¼	2¼
Bethlehem Steel	41	41
Black & Decker	23¼	23⅝
Boeing	27	26⅞
Boise Cascade	28⅝	27⅝
Borden	28¾	28⅝
Borg Warner	28½	28½
Braniff Int.	10½	10½
Brascan 'A'	11⅛	11¼
Bristol Myers	74⅜	75⅛
Brit. Pet. ADR	11⅛	11⅝
Brockway Glass	30⅛	29⅝
Brunswick	14⅛	14
Bucyrus Erie	25¾	25
Budd	14½	14⅝
Bulova Watch	7	6⅛
Burlington Nthn	38½	36⅝
Burroughs	104½	102¼
Calif Computer	5	5¼
Campbell Soup	32¼	32¼
Canadian Pacific	16¾	16⅞
Canal Randolph	11¼	11⅛
Carnation	69	68⅝
Carrier & General	15	15⅛
Carter Hawley	22¾	22½
Caterpillar Tract	86⅝	84½
CBS	53¾	53¼
Celanese Corpn.	51⅝	51⅝
Central & S.W.	15½	15⅜
Certain Teed	21	21¼
Cessna Aircraft	26¾	25¾
Chase Manhattan	28⅛	28⅝
Chemical Bk NY	36	34⅛
Chesebgh Pond	57¾	57
Chessie System	35⅜	35⅛
Chicago Bridge	62½	61½
Chrysler	20⅝	20½
Cinerama	1¾	1¾
Cinc. Milacron	29¼	29
Citicorp	34¾	34¼
Cities Service	43⅝	42⅛
City Investing	9½	9½
Coca Cola	84⅞	84½
Colgate Palm.	27⅜	26¾
Collins Aikman	12¾	12½
Columbia Gas	24	24¼
Columbia Pict.	6⅞	6¼
Com. Ins. Co. of Am	9⅝	9⅝
Combustion Eng.	39⅛	38⅞
Comw'th Edison	28½	28⅝
Comw'th Oil Ref	8¼	8⅞
Comm. Satellite	27	26¾
Con. Edison N.Y.	17	16¾
Consol Foods	20⅛	20⅛
Consol Nat. Gas	25⅜	25¼
Consumers Power	20¼	20⅜
Continental Can.	28	27⅞
Continental Oil	69⅛	69
Continental Tele.	15½	15¼
Control Data	24½	23¾
Cooper Indus.	30⅝	29¾
Copper Range	24	24

Stock	April 19	April 16
Corning Glass	68⅝	67½
CPC Internat'nl	42⅞	42¼
Crane	65	63⅝
Crocker Nat.	25	25
Crown Zellerbach	43¼	43⅛
Cummins Engine	31⅞	31½
Curtiss-Wright	12½	12⅝
Dana	22¼	22⅛
Dart Industries	35½	36
Deere	62	61¼
Del Monte	26½	26½
Deltona	4⅛	5¾
Detroit Edison	13⅞	14
Diamond Shamrk	66⅛	66
Dictaphone	9¼	9⅜
Digital Equip.	175½	174¼
Disney Walt	56⅝	55½
Dover Corpn	58⅝	58¼
Dow Chemical	109⅛	108¾
Dresser	79¾	80⅝
Du Pont	147¾	146
Dymo Industries	8⅝	8½
Eagle Picher	34⅝	34⅝
East Air Lines	6¾	7
Eastman Kodak	116¼	114⅛
Eaton	37¼	37⅝
E.G. & G.	14½	14¾
El Paso Nat. Gas	15¾	15⅝
ELTRA	27¾	28⅛
Emery Air Fr'ght	41¾	41½
E.M.I.	4¾	4¾
Engelhard Min	29⅝	28⅝
Esmark	39¼	38⅞
Ethyl	40¾	40½
Exxon	93⅝	92½
Fairchild Camera	39¾	38
Fed. Dept. Stores	56¼	56
Firestone Tire	21¾	22⅜
Fst. Nat. Boston	28	27½
Flexi-Van	10⅝	10⅛
Flintkote	18½	18¾
Florida Power	27¼	27⅛
Fluor	32¾	31
F.M.C.	24⅝	24⅛
Ford Motor	59¾	59¾
Foremost-Mck	16⅛	15⅞
Foxboro	35⅝	34⅛
Franklin Mint	33	32⅛
Freeport Minerals	25¼	26⅞
Fruehauf	22⅛	22⅝
Fuqua Industries	8½	7¾
G.A.F.	15⅝	15⅛
Gannett	36⅞	37
Gen. Amer. Inv.	10½	10½
G.A.T.X.	29	29⅜
Gen. Cable	11⅜	11¼
Gen. Dynamics	51	51
Gen. Electric	52¼	52⅛
General Foods	27⅞	28
General Mills	28⅞	28¾
General Motors	70	70⅛
Gen. Pub. Util.	17	17⅜
Gen. Signal	41	40⅝
Gen. Tel. Elect.	25⅞	25¾
Gen. Tire	20⅛	20¼
Genesco	7⅝	7¼
Georgia Pacific	64	63⅞
Getty Oil	152¾	155
Gillette	32⅛	32
Global Marine	8½	8⅝
Goodrich B. F.	25½	25⅝
Goodyear Tire	20⅞	21
Gould	30½	28⅝
Grace W. R.	28⅜	28
Grand Union	14¼	14⅜
Gt. Atlan Pac Tea	14	13⅞
Grt. North Iron	16⅞	16⅞
Greyhound	15¼	15¼
Grolier	2¾	2⅞
Grumman	16⅝	16⅜
Gulf & Western	23½	23¼
Gulf Oil	24⅝	24⅛
Halliburton	147	145¾
Hanna Mining	33	33⅞
Harnischfeger	35	32⅞
Harris Corpn	43¾	42⅞
Heinz H. J.	48½	48¼
Heller W.E.	24⅜	24¾
Heublein	49½	50¼
Hewlett-Packard	114¾	113⅝
Holiday Inns	15⅝	15¼
Homestake	36½	37½
Honeywell	45⅝	45⅛
Hoover	11⅞	11⅞
Household Fin.	17⅛	18
Hutton E. F.	19¼	18⅝
I.C. Industries	19	18⅞
ICN Pharmac.	3⅛	3⅛
INA	37⅞	38⅞
Ingersoll Rand	89⅛	89
Inland Steel	52⅛	52⅛
Insilco	11	10⅝
IBM	259.12	255¾
Intl. Flavors	27¼	26⅝
Intl. Harvester	25	25⅛
Intl. Min & Chem	34⅝	34⅞
Intl. Nickel	32⅝	32½
Intl. Paper	72	71½
Intl. Tel & Tel	27⅝	26⅝
Invest	2⅛	2¾
Iowa Beef	29¾	28¾
IU International	10¼	10¼
Jim Walter	40⅜	40½

Stock	April 19	April 16
Johns Manville	29⅞	29⅝
Johnson Johnson	89⅞	90⅛
Johnson Control	22	21⅞
Joy Manufacturing	38	38¼
Kaiser Aluminium	31¼	31½
Kaiser Industries	11½	11½
Kaiser Steel	41	40¾
Kay	3⅜	3⅛
Kennecott	44⅛	34
Kerr McGee	68⅜	67¾
Kidde Walter	44⅜	44⅛
Kimberly-Clark	39¾	38⅞
Koppers	47¼	46¾
Kraftco	43¾	43⅝
Kresge	35½	35⅝
Kroger Co.	19⅝	19½
Libbey Ow Ford	42½	31⅝
Libby McNeill	¼	¼
Liggett & Myers	33¼	33¼
Lilly (Eli)	51⅛	49⅞
Litton Indus.	15⅛	14⅝
Lockheed Aircraft	9¼	9⅛
Lone Star Inds.	16¾	16½
Long Island Ltg.	17¼	17¼
Louisiana Land	25	24⅝
Lubrizol	37⅝	36¾
Lucky Stores	15⅛	15
Lukes Youngst'wn	23	21⅝
Mac Millan	6½	6⅜
Macy R. H.	34	34
Mfrs Hanover	36⅞	36⅝
Mapco	33	34
Marathon Oil	51⅝	52
Marcor	36	35¾
Marine Midland	10	10⅛
Marshall Field	21¼	20¾
May Dept. Stores	51⅝	51⅝
MCA	68	68⅝
McDermott	44½	43⅝
McDonnell Doug.	17⅞	18⅛
McGraw Hill	14	14
Merck	73½	71¾
Merrill Lynch	26	25¼
MGM	16½	16¼
Minn. Ming & Mfg	63¾	62⅝
Mobil Oil	57⅝	57¼
Monsanto	91	89½
Morgan J. P.	60	59¼
Motorola	50½	47½
Murphy Oil	16⅜	18½
Nabisco	41	40¼
Nalco Chemical	33⅛	32¾
National Can	12⅞	13⅛
Nat. Distillers	24⅜	24
Nat. Service Ind.	4¾	12½
National Steel	46½	46⅞
Natomas	25½	24¼
NCR	27	27
Neptune Intl.	17	16⅞
New England El.	20⅝	20⅝
New England Tel.	28	27¾
Niagara Mohawk	13	12⅞
Niagara Share	12⅛	12⅝
N.L. Industries	16¾	16½
Norfolk & Western	75	74¼
North Nat. Gas	43⅛	43
Nthn States Pwr.	26	26⅝
Nthwest Airlines	26¾	26½
Nthwest Bancorp	52¼	52
Norton Simon	19⅝	19½
Occidental Petrol	15⅛	14¾
Ogilvy Mather	26¾	25¾
Ohio Edison	18¼	18⅜
Olin	38⅝	37⅞
Otis Elevator	43½	43¼
Overseas Ship	15¼	15
Owens-Corning	34	33⅝
Owens Illinois	60⅝	60⅝
Pacific Gas	23⅛	20¾
Pac. Lighting	17¼	17¼
Pac. Pwr. & Lt.	22	21⅝
Pan Am World Air	5⅞	5⅞
Parker Hannifin	29⅛	29⅜
Penn Central	1¾	1⅝
Penn Pw. & L.	20⅜	20¼
Penney J.C.	55⅞	55¼
Pennzoil	27⅞	27½
Peoples Drug	6⅞	6⅞
Peoples Gas	35¾	36⅝
Pepsico	75⅝	74¾
Perkin Elmer	24⅝	23⅞
Pet	24	24
Pfizer	27⅛	27⅝
Phelps Dodge	44¼	44⅜
Philadelphia Elec.	16⅜	16½
Philip Morris	56¼	55¼
Phillips Petrol'm	56⅝	56¼
Pickwick Inter.	18¼	19
Pillsbury	38⅛	38¼
Pitney Bowes	14¾	14½
Pittston	35¼	33⅞
Plessey Ltd ADR	14¼	14½
Polaroid	33¼	33½
Potomac Elec.	14⅜	12¾
PPG Industries	48½	48½
Procter Gamble	89½	89⅞
Pub. Serv. Elect.	18¾	19
Pullman	32¾	32¾
Purex	15	14¾
Purolator	36⅞	38
Quaker Oats	24⅞	23⅝
Rapid American	5⅜	5⅞
Raytheon	52¾	50¾
RCA	26¾	26⅝

Stock	April 19	April 16
Reading	1¼	1
Republic Steel	35¼	34½
Revlon	74⅝	74⅛
Reynolds Metals	37¾	36½
Reynolds R. J.	60¼	59¼
Rich'son Merrell	3½	22¾
Rockwell Inter.	30⅞	30¼
Rohm & Haas	69½	69
Royal Dutch	46⅞	46⅝
Russ Togs	12⅛	11⅝
Safeway Stores	42¼	42⅞
St. Joe Minerals	40¾	40½
St. Regis Paper	43	42⅞
Santa Fe Inds.	36⅝	36¼
Saul Invest	5⅞	5¾
Saxon Inds.	5⅞	5⅞
Schlitz Brewing	19½	19¾
Schlumberger	77	74½
SCM	16¼	15⅞
Scott Paper	21¼	21⅛
Scovill Mfg.	17⅝	17
Scudd'r Duo Vest	6½	6⅜
Sea Containers	18⅛	18⅞
Seagram	27¼	27¼
Searle (G.D.)	15	14⅞
Sears Roebuck	75⅞	73⅝
SEDCO	28⅛	27¾
Shell Oil	53⅝	53⅞
Shell Transport	30⅜	30½
Signal	19⅞	19⅝
Signode Corp.	38⅜	38⅛
Simplicity Pat.	16⅝	16⅛
Singer	18⅜	18⅛
[illegible]	4¼	4⅛
Southdown	10¾	11
Southern Cal. Ed.	19½	19⅝
Southern Co.	14⅞	15⅛
Sthn. Nat. Res.	49⅜	49¼
Southern Pacific	36⅜	36¼
Southern Railway	57⅝	56¾
Southland	21⅞	21⅞
Sperry Hutch	15	14¾
Sperry Rand	47⅝	46¼
Standard Brands	34¾	35⅝
Std. Oil California	34⅜	34⅛
Std. Oil Indiana	48⅛	47⅞
Std. Oil Ohio	68⅞	69¼
Stauff Chemical	91	91⅝
Sterling Drug	18	18⅛
Studebaker	44⅛	45⅞
Sun Oil	30¼	29¾
Sundstrand	28	28⅜
Syntex	28⅞	28⅞
Tandy	39⅝	39⅛
Technicolor	5½	5⅝
Tektronix	59⅝	59¾
Teledyne	45	42¾
Telex	3¾	3½
Tenneco	27¼	26⅞
Tesoro Petroleum	14⅞	14¾
Texaco	25½	25¼
Texasgulf	33⅝	33⅞
Texas Instm.	120½	121⅜
Texas Oil & Gas	17	16⅝
Texas Utilities	18¾	18⅝
Time	60¾	59¾
Times Mirror	20	19⅞
Timken	45⅝	45½
Trane	26⅝	25⅝
Transamerica	11⅜	11
Trans Union	31	31
Transway Int'rn	24	23⅞
Trans World Air	11¼	11⅛
Travelers	29¼	29¼
Tri Continental	20⅛	20⅝
T.R.W.	33	32¾
20th Century Fox	10¼	10⅜
UAL	22⅝	22⅝
UARCO	24⅝	24½
UGI	15⅛	15⅛
UOP	10¾	10¾
Unilever Ltd.	33½	33⅝
Unilever NV	47¼	47¼
Union Bancorp	9⅜	9½
Union Carbide	70¼	69⅝
Union Commerce	6⅛	6⅞
Union Oil Cal.	43½	43⅝
Union Pacific	84⅝	85
Unionamerica	1⅞	1⅛
UNIROYAL	8⅛	8⅛
United Brands	10⅛	11
United Corp.	8⅛	8⅜
US. Bancorp	25½	25½
US. Gypsum	24¼	23⅞
US. Industries	5⅞	5⅞
US. Shoe	30¼	30⅝
US. Steel	80	79½
U. Technologies	61½	60
USM	28	27⅛
Utah Int'l.	57⅛	57¼
UV Industries	27¾	27¼
Virginia Elect.	15¼	15⅜
Walgreen	16	16
Warner-Commun.	25¾	22¾
Warner-Lambert	34⅞	33¾
Wells-Fargo	20⅝	20¾
Western Bancorp	22½	22½
Western N. Amer.	12¼	11¾
Western Union	18¼	17⅝
Westingh'e Elec.	15¼	15⅛
Westvaco	41⅝	41
Weyerhaeuser	48	47⅝
Whirlpool	29⅝	29¾
White Cons. Ind.	22	20¾
William Co.	23½	22⅜
Wisconsin Elec.	26⅛	27⅛
Woolworth	24½	24⅛
Wyly	4½	4¼
Xerox	52¾	53
Zapata	12	12

Stock	April 19	April 16
Zenith Radio	35⅞	35¼
Chile 5% 1995	†89¼	†89¼
Peru 5% 1995	unav.	unav.
U.S. Treas. 5⅞% 1974	†99¼	†99¼
U.S. Treas. 4% 1985	†91⅝	†91⅝
U.S. Treas. 4¼% 75/85	†85	†85
U.S. 90 days bills	4.75%	4.76%

CANADA

Stock	April 19	April 16
Abbey Glen Prop.	5.02	5.12
Abitibi Paper	12⅝	12⅝
Agnico Eagle	4.30	4.35
Alcan Aluminium	27¾	27
Algoma Steel	26⅝	25¾
Asbestos	29	†27¾
Bank Montreal	16⅛	16½
Bank Nova Scotia	40	40
Basic Resources	10⅝	10¾
Bell Telephone	46	46
Bovis	0.87	0.89
Bow Valley Inds.	21⅛	20¼
BP Canada	9⅞	9¾
Brascan	11⅛	11⅛
Brinco	†4.05	4.10
Calgary Power	28	28
Canada Cement	11⅛	11¼
Canada N.W. Land	8	7⅞
Can. Imp. Bank Com	28	27⅝
Canada Indus.	24¼	24⅜
Can. Pacific	16⅝	16⅝
Can. Pacific Inv.	18⅞	18¾
Can. Super Oil	41	40⅛
Carling O'Keefe	3.35	3.35
Cassiar Asbestos	6½	6¼
Chieftain Dev.	9⅞	9¾
Cominco	37¼	38
Cons. Bathurst	36⅞	36⅝
Con. Textile M.	†2.25	†2.25
Consumer Gas	11⅝	11½
Coseka Rsrcs.	†8⅝	8¾
Decca Resources	5.00	5.00
Denison Mines	56¾	57
Dome Mines	39¾	†39
Dome Petroleum	55	55¾
Dominion Bridge	†34¾	35
Domtar	26⅜	25⅝
Dupont	†18	†18¼
Falcon'ge Nickel	39¼	38¾
Ford Motor Can.	†89	89
Giant Y'knife	6¾	6¾
Gulf Oil Canada	32¼	32⅛
Hawker Sid. Can.	6⅞	7
Hollinger	†36	†36
Home Oil 'A'	†31¼	31¼
Hudson Bay Mng.	20⅛	20
Hudson Bay	19	19⅛
Hudson Oil & Gas	36½	36¾
I.A.C.	18⅝	18¼
Imasco	25¼	25½
Imperial Oil	23⅝	23⅝
Indal	† 4	†14
Inland Nat. Gas	9¼	9¼
Internat'l Nickel	31⅞	32
Int'pr'v Pipe Line	13⅝	13¾
Laurnt'e Fin. Corp	6⅜	†6⅜
Loblaw Com. 'B'	4.65	†4.70
Mc'mill'n Bloed'l	20¼	20⅛
Massey Ferguson	27	26¾
McIntyre Porcupine	42¾	43
Moore Corpn.	47½	47¼
Noranda Mines	35⅞	35⅛
Norcen Energy	12⅛	12¼
Nthn. Hmestke M	0.50	†0.60
Nthn. Telecom	35	34½
Numac Oil & Gas	9¾	10
Oakwood Petr'm	1.35	1.35
Pacific Copper M	1.10	1.05
Pacific Petroleum	29⅝	29⅜
Page Petroleum	1.80	†1.72
Pan. Can. Pet'm	21⅝	21⅝
Patino	†14	14
Peoples Dept. S.	†5.15	5.15
Place Gas & Oil	†0.51	†0.51
Placer Development	23⅜	23¼
Power Corporat'n	9¾	9⅛
Price	15½	15½
Quebec Sturgeon	1.10	1.10
Ranger Oil	15	14⅞
Reed Shaw	6⅞	7
Rio Algom	34	34¼
Royal Ag. Mines	0.25	0.24
Royal Bk. of Can	29⅞	29⅝
Royal Trust	22⅛	22⅝
Seagrams	26¾	26⅞
Shell Canada	15⅞	15⅞
Sherritt G. Mines	6¼	6¼
Siebens O. G.	11¾	11
Simpson	6½	6¼
Steel of Canada	29½	29
Steep Rock Iron	†2.07	2.10
Sunningdale Oil	10⅞	11
Talcorp	7¼	7⅛
Texaco Canada	28	27¾
Toronto Dom. Bk.	18½	18⅛
TransCan PipeLn	11¾	11¾
Trans Mount Oil	10¼	10⅛
Trizec	14⅜	†14½
Union Gas	7⅜	7⅜
United Carpo 'B'	† 5	†13
Walker Hiram	29⅞	29¾
West Coast Trans	24⅛	24⅛
Weston (Geo.)	16¾	16⅞

a Asked. * Assented † Bid. ‡ Traded. ¶ New stock.

GERMANY ◆

April 20	Prices Dm.	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
A.E.G.	99.7	−0.3	—	—
Allianz Versich.	421	+1.5	17	2.0
B.M.W.	259.5	+0.5	14	2.7
BASF	168.2	−0.5	17	—
Bayer	144	−0.1	17	5.5
Bayer Hypo	288	+2.5	20	3.4
Bayer Vereinsbk.	309	+2.5	20	2.7
Commerzbank	205	......	18	4.4
Conti. Gummi	105	−0.3	—	—
Daimler	355	......	15	2.2
Degussa	266	+3	15	3.4
Demag	185	+5	—	—
Deutsche Bank	318.5	−1	20	3.1
Dresdner Bank	242.5	−0.5	20	4.1
Dyckerhof Zem't	170	......	10	2.9
Gutehoffnung	196	+1	14	3.6
Hapag Lloyd	125	−2.5	12	4.8
Harpener Dm100	168	−3	8	4.7
Hoechst	170.7	+0.5	18	5.4
Hoesch	70.2	+0.7	10	7.1
Kali Salz (Dm50)	123.5	+0.5	5	—
Karstadt	426	+1	20	2.4
Kaufhof	266	−0.5	20	3.7
Klockner (Dm100)	135.5	+1	—	—
Klock Humbolt	174	−1	6	1.7
Krupp Pri Dm100	142	−2	—	—
Kundenkredit Bk	290	−3	18	3.1
Linde	307.5	−1.5	16	3.9
Lowenbrau DM100	1,790	......	20	1.1
Lufthansa	102.2	+1.2	4	2.0
M.A.N.	176.5	+2.5	12	3.4
Mannesmann Dm 100	374.5	−2	14	3.8
Metallgesellschaft	265	−2	10	3.8
Munch. Ruckvers	465	......	18	2.0
Neckermann	85.5	−0.8	—	—
Preussag Dm. 100	160.5	+1.5	7	4.4
Rhein West Elect.	159	+1	17	5.0
Schering	245	−5	20	2.9
Siemens	298.5	−2	16	2.5
Sudzucker	260.5	−0.5	19	3.6
Thyssen	137.5	−1.3	14	5.1
Verein & West Bk	321	......	20	2.9

PARIS

April 20	Price Frs.	+ or —	Div. Frs.	Yld. %
Air Liquide	366.1	−0.9	16.5	4.6
Aquitaine	341	−1	22.5	6.7
Beghin	95.1	−2.1	11.55	10.9
B.S.N. Gervais	649	+4	37.5	5.3
Carrefour	2,050	+9	57	2.7
Chargeurs Reunis	160.3	−3.7	15	8.2
Citroen	59.0	......	y—	—
Cie Bancaire	312	−3.1	12	3.8
C.G.E.	318	−12	25.5	7.4
CreditCom Fr'nce	115	−2	10.5	9.0
Credit Foncier	328	−2	27	8.5
Denai N.E.	145.5	−0.5	18.75	12.7
Fr. Petroles	125	−1	15.6	12.5
Gal. Lafayette	82.8	+0.3	7.5	9.4
Gen. Occidentale	180	−0.5	7.5	6.5
Imetal	114.5	+2	4.5	3.8
Lafarge	207	−2.9	15.75	7.1
L'Oreal	950	+11	13.5	1.4
Machines Bull	36.9	−0.1	1.5	4.0
Michelin "B"	1,334	+3	27.75	2.3
Moet Hennessey	515	+5	10.5	2.2
Paribas	177.5	−2	18¾	9.1
Pechiney	107.6	+1.4	14.1	—
Peugeot Frs. 70	355	......	15.5	4.4
Poclain	152	−3.6	15	7.4
Printemps	58.5	+0.5	3	5.0
Redoute	665	−5	18	2.4
Rhone Poulenc	96.7	−0.3	9	—
Sacilor S.A.	66.9	−0.1	12	17.6
Source Perrier	109.5	−1.1	6	5.2
Suez	258	+2.5	42.5	8.5
Thomson Brandt	228.5	+1	14.25	6.3
Usinor	74.5	+2.5	—	—

AMSTERDAM

April 20	Price Fls.	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
Ahold (Fl.20)	118.0	+0.8	18	3.0
Akzo (Fl.20)	45.6	......	—	—
Algem Bnk Fl.100	353.5	......	21	6.2
AMEV (Fl.10)	59.5	+3.8	30	10.1
Amro Bank (Fl.20)	74.6xd	+0.1	21	5.4
Van Berkels (Fl.50)	114.0	−1.3	15	6.6
Bijenkorf (Fl.20)	76.1xd	......	21	5.5
Boka Westm. Fl.10	116.8	+1.6	55	4.8
Buhrm-Tetterode	73.3	−1.2	25	6.3
Elsevier (Fl.20)	262.5xd	......	24	1.8
Ennia N.V. Bearer	122.0	+1.5	27½	2.3
EuroComTst Fl.10	70	......	50.4	4.3
GistBrocades Fl.10	65.5	−1.1	23	3.6
Heineken (Fl.25)	143.1	+1.9	14	2.4
Holland Pand	137.5	+0.2	6.98	8.1
Hoogovens (Fl.20)	49.5	−12.5	28	10.5
H'nter Douglas Fls	23.0	......	11	4.9
I.H.C. Holland	24.0	−0.5	5	2.1
K.L.M. Fr.100	116.4	−0.9	—	—
Int. Muller (Fl.20)	40.1	......	24	11.6
Naarden (Fl.40)	47.6	−1.4	—	—
Nat. Ned. Insurnce	102.0	+1.5	35.9	5.4
NedCredBk (Fl.20)	47.9xd	−0.2	16	6.7
Ned Mid Bk Fl.50	149.8	+0.4	15	5.0
Neto (Fl.20)	74.3xd	+0.3	10.5	7.1
Nijverdal T.Cate	45.5	+0.3	—	—
OCE (Fl.20)	189.0xd	+1	28	3.0
Van Ommeren	227.5	+1.5	20	8.8
Pakhoed (Fl.20)	136.0	+0.8	20	2.7
Philips (Fl.10)	33.7	+0.2	14	4.2
RijnSchVer Fl.100	145.5	+1.5	14	14.5
Robeco Fl.50	194.5xd	+1.7	25.2	6.5
Rolinco Fl.50	145.7	+1.1	5	1.7
Rorento Fl.50	124.9	+0.3	10	8.0
Royal Dutch (Fl.20)	126.0	+1.0	45¾	6.9
Slavenburg's Bank	246xd	+2	17	6.9
Tokyo Pac Hlgs $1	Fl.23.5	−1.0	$0.3	1.4
Unilever Fl.20	128.3	+0.5	58¾	5.7
VMF	179.8	−0.2	13.5	7.5
Viking Res. Int. $1	52.2	−0.3	$0.18	4.7

MILAN

April 20	Price Lire	+ or —	Div. Lire	Yld. %
Alitalia Priv.	680	−120	—	—
ANIC	539	+18	60	—
Ausonia Fin.	3,930	+130	120	3.3
Bastogi	990	+25	70	7.0
Breda	1,720	+71	165	8.8
Burgo	9,800	−200	200	4.0
Cantoni	5,479	+299	200	3.6
CIGA	2,430	−170	—	—
Cucirini	4,050	−70	250	6.1
Dalmine	630	+10	50	0.8
Erba	2,215	+65	—	—
Fiat	1,350	+16	100	7.4
Do. Priv.	935	+20	100	1.1
Finsider	252	+3	40	15.8
Generali	43,890	+380	500	11.5
IFI Priv	2,000	+130	130	—
Invest B.	1,860	+50	80	4.5
Italcementi	19,420	−30	360	1.9
Italgas	500	+16	—	—
Italsider	360	+10	60	1.7
La Centrale	7,649	+259	350	5.2
Marelli Ercole	390	−10	—	—
Mediobanca	69,000	−500	1,200	1.6
Mondadori Priv.	1,090	−9	120	11.1
Montedison	420.25	+9.75	33	7.8
Motta	900	+89	—	—
Olivetti Priv.	580	......	70	7.9
Pirelli & C.	1,439	−51	110	7.8
Pirelli Spa	839	+24	80	13.2
RAS	72,300	−700	600	0.8
Rinascente	57	+4	—	—
Rumianca	3,400	−220	—	—
S.A.F.F.A.	5,085	−120	200	3.9
S.T.E.T.	1,340	+30	160	[illegible]
Snia Viscosa	1,310	+80	72	5.5
Soc. Gen. Immob.	170	+5	—	

BRUSSELS/LUXEMBOURG

April 20	Price Frs.	+ or —	Div. Frs. Net	Yld. %
Arbed	4,405	+55	390	—
BBL Bq BrxLamb	1,055	−5	—	—
Bekaert "B"	2,150	−10	105	4.9
CBL (Cie Br Lamb)	2,400	−30	110	5.0
C.B.R. Cement	1,725	−25	75	6.5
Cockerill	900	−18	150	16.7
E.B.E.S.	2,130	......	161	7.5
Electrobel	5,700	−30	400	7.0
Fabrique Nat.	1,955	+5	—	—
G.B. Inno-Bm	1,760	+10	130	7.4
Glace et Boch.	4,200	+70	180	4.3
Hoboken	3,865	−70	110	2.6
Intercom	1,445	−15	125	7.8
Kredietbank	6,730	−10	240	3.6
La Royale Belge	6,050	−10	265	5.3
Pan-Holding	2,950	+30	$4.1	2.5
Petrofina	5,380	......	170	3.0
Photo Gevaert	1,278	−2	75	5.7
Pieux Frankl	6,000	+140	275	4.7
Soc. Generale	3,390	−65	175	5.9
Soc. Gen. Banque	2,605	−15	170	6.4
Sofina	3,220	−10	195	6.0
Solvay 'A'	2,520	−55	186	7.3
Traction Elec.	2,900	−40	150	5.2
U.C.B.	2,560	−15	175	6.9
Un. Min. 1/10th	1,270	−8	70	7.8
Vielle Montagne	4,050	−5	560	[illegible]
Wagon Lits	720	−10	20	4.9

SWITZERLAND◆

April 20	Price Frs.	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
Aluminium	1,175	+55	[illegible]	4.9
Bally Hld.	890	+45	—	—
BBC 'A'	1,650	+20	10	3.0
Ciba-Geigy	1,585	......	22	1.5
Do. Do. Part.	1,185	+10	22	1.8
Do. Do. Reg.	690	+7	22	3.2
Credit Suisse	2,630xd	+5	16	3.0
Fischer (George)	690	+10	—	—
G'nd. Mag. Jel. F10	1,185xd	......	19	1.6
Hoffman La Roche	105,000	−500	1100	1.1
Interfood B.	2,700	......	30	3.9
Landis Gyr (F200)	710xd	+10	6	0.8
Nestle	3,410	+50	z76.5	2.3
Do. Reg.	1,745	......	z76.5	4.4
Sandoz (F250)	5,550	+125	26	1.2
Saurer Arbon	920	−5	11	6.0
Soc. Inte. Pirelli	310	−1	14	8.7
Swissair (F350)	561	+13	25.7	5.5
Swiss Bank Corp.	436xd	+26	10	1.8
Un. Bank of Switz.	3,120	−10	20	3.2
Winterthur	1,850	+15	30	1.6
Zurich Ins.	9,750	+20	40	2.0

COPENHAGEN

April 20	Price Kroner	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
Burmeister & W.	63¼	−¼	—	—
Dan Bank	139xr	......	12	7.3
Dan Provinsbank	151	......	10	4.2
East Asiatic Co.	308xd	−¼	12	4.1
Finansbanken	141xd	......	13	8.1
For. Bryggerier	381	......	12	3.4
Handelsbank Cop	164xd	......	11	6.7
Papirfabrik For	93	−1	10	9.9
G. Northern Hld.	251	−½	12	5.0
Nord Kabel	289½	+1½	12	4.2
Oliefabrik	144½	−½	12	8.1
Privatbank	156	+½	11	5.4
Soph. Berendsen	380	......	11	3.0
Superfos	256½	......	12	4.6

VIENNA

April 20	Price %	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
Creditanstalt	395xd	......	10	2.4
Perlmooser	340	......	12	3.5
Selecta	738	+5	48	6.6
Semperit	206	−2	—	—
Steyr Daimler	147	......	6	4.2
Veit Magnesit	411	......	22	5.2

AUSTRALIA

April 20	Aust. $	+ or —
Acrow Australia	†0.75	......
Adelaide Brighton Cement 50c	†1.11	......
Allied Mnfg-Trdg Indus $1	†1.81	+0.01
Ampol Exploration	†0.88	+0.02
Ampol Petroleum	†0.56	......
Assoc. Minerals	†3.11	+0.01
Assoc. Pulp Paper $1	†0.82	......
Aust. Con. Industries	†1.32	+0.02
Aust. Foundation Invest.	†0.80	−0.02
A.N.I.	†1.0	+0.02
Aust. Oil & Gas	†0.09	−0.01
Blue Metal Ind.	†1.06	+0.01
Bougainville Copper	†1.29	+0.01
Broken Hill Proprietary	†7.16	+0.02
BH. South	†1.63	......
Carlton United Brewery	†2.10	......
G. J. Coles	†1.39	+0.01
CSR ($1)	†3.85	−0.05
Cons. Goldfields Aust.	†2.40	+0.05
Container ($1)	†1.70	+0.09
Conzinc Riotinto	†2.62	−0.05
Costain Australia (25 c)	†1.55	......
Dunlop Rubber ($1)	†1.07	−0.01
ESCOR	†0.80	......
Elder Smith ($1)	†2.10	......
E.Z. Industries	†3.50	−0.02
F. & T. (25c)	†0.78	......
Gen. Property Trust	†1.10	......
Gollin	†0.11	−0.01
Hamersley	†1.96	+0.01
Hookes	†1.09	......
I.C.I. Australia	†1.78	......
I.A.C. Holdings	†1.00	......
Inter-Copper	†0.35	......
Jennings Industries	†1.38	−0.02
Jones (David)	†0.96	−0.02
Metals Exploration	†0.48	−0.01
MIM Holdings	†2.56	+0.02
Myer Emporium	†2.12	−0.05
News	†1.65	+0.05
Nicholas International	†0.66	+0.01
North Broken Hill	†1.62	−0.01
Oakbridge	†0.75	−0.01
Oil Search	†0.14	+0.01
Pioneer Concrete	†1.20	−0.04
Reckitt & Colman	†3.25	−0.05
H. C. Sleigh	†0.50	−0.05
Southland Mining	†0.41	+0.02
Stocks & Holdings	†3.50	......
Tooth ($1)	†1.65	+0.05
Waltons	†1.0	−0.02
Western Mining (50 cents)	†1.62	+0.02
Woolworths	†1.20	−0.01

TOKYO¶

April 20	*Prices Yen	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
Asahi Glass	327	+9	14	2.1
Canon	401	+16	—	—
Dai Nippon Print	486	+6	18	1.9
Fuji Photo Film	494	+6	15	1.5
Hitachi	201	+8	10	2.5
Honda Motors	715	+12	18	1.3
C. Itoh	308	+1	12	1.9
Ito-Yokado	1,840	......	30	0.8
Japan Airlines	1,650	−50	—	—
Kansai Elect. Pw.	693	......	8	0.5
Komatsu	383	+5	18	2.3
Kubota	319	......	15	2.3
Matsushita Ind.	619	+11	20	1.6
Mitsubishi Bank	323	......	10	[illegible]
Mitsubishi Heavy	141	+1	12	4.2
Mitsubishi Corp.	428	+3	13	1.5
Mitsui & Co.	417	+8	14	1.7
Mitsukoshi	462	......	20	2.2
Nissan Motor	482	+6	16	1.7
Pioneer Electronic	2,780	+90	50	0.5
Sanyo Electric	216	+3	12	2.8
Shiseido	1,050	......	20	1.2
Sony	2,650	+40	30	0.6
Taisho Marine	272	+3	11	2.0
Takeda Chemical	235	+17	15	3.2
Teijin	157	+5	12	3.8
Tokio Marine	560	+8	11	1.0
Tokyo Elect. Pwr.	701	−4	10	0.7
Toshiba	130	+5	10	3.8
Toray	151	+1	12	4.0
Toyota Motor	709	+5	16	1.1

Source Nikko Securities Tokyo.

STOCKHOLM

April 20	Price Kronor	+ or —	Div. Kr.	Yld. %
Aga AB (Kr.50)	185xr	......	5.5	3.0
Alfa Laval B (Kr50)	175	......	5	2.7
Asea (Kr50)	145	+4	[illegible]	3.6
Atlas Copco (Kr25)	169xd	+4	6	3.5
Billerud	237	+2	8½	3.7
Bofors	299	......	9	2.9
Cardo	350	+3	9.5	2.7
Cellulosa	327	+2	9.5	3.4
Electrolux 'B'	125	+2	5	4.8
Ericsson 'B' (Kr50)	206	......	5	2.5
Fagersta	234	......	8	3.4
Granges (free)	128	+2	11	8.6
Handelsbanken	255xd	+1	16	5.9
Marabou	210xd	......	10	4.8
Mo Och Domsjo	290	−6	9	3.1
Sandvik A.B.	318	+1	7	2.5
S.K.F. 'B' Kr 50	139	−2	4.5	4.0
Skand Enskilda	256xd	+1	15	7.0
Tandstik 'B' (K50)	102	+1	5	4.7
Uddeholm	176	+2	9	5.2
Volvo (Kr50)	140xr	+2	6	4.4

OSLO◆

April 20	Price Kroner	+ or —	Div. %	Yld. %
Bergen Bank	103	......	9	8.6
Borregaard	117.5	+1.5	10	8.4
Creditbank	114	......	10	9.2
Kosmos	540	......	20	3.8
Kreditkassen	113	−2	10	8.7
Norsk Hydro Kr80	265	+1	12	3.1
Orkla Ind.	100	−2	4	4.1
Storebrand	147.5	......	10	7.2

JOHANNESBU

April 20
Anglo American
Charter Consolid
East Driefontein
Elsburg
Harmony
Kinross
Kloof
Potgietersrust Pl
St. Helena
South Vaal
Gold Fields SA
Union Corporation
De Beers Deferre
Blyvooruitzicht
East Rand Pty.
Free State Gedul
President Brand
Stilfontein
Welkom
West Driefontein
Western Holdings
Western Deep

INDI

African Explos. an
Anglo-Alpha Ceme
Anglo-Amer. Indu
Anglo-Transvaal I
Associated Furnit
Barlow Rand
CNA Investments
Currie Finance
De Beers Industri
Edgars Stores
Ever Ready SA
Federale Volksbel
Glen Anil Develo
Greatermans Store
Guardian Assuran
Hulletts
LTA
Nedsual
OK Bazaars
Ovenstone Investm
Premier Milling
Pretoria Cement
Protea Holdings
Rand Mines Prop
Rembrandt Group
Sage Holdings
SAPPI
Sorec
SA Breweries
Tiger Oats and Na
Unisec

SPAIN ♥

April 20
Asland
Banco Lopez Ques
Banco Bilbao
Banco Atlantico (1
Banco Central
Banesto (250)
Banco Exterior
Banco General
Banco Granada (1
Banco Hispano
Banco Iberico
Induban
Banco Ind. Cat. (1
Banco Mercantil (1
Banco Occidental
Banco Popular
Banco Santander
Banco Urquijo (1
Banco Vizcaya
Banco Zaragozano
Bankunion
Banus Andalucia
Altos Hornos
Babcock Wilcox
CIC
Dragados
Inmobanif
E. I. Aragonesas
Espanola Zinc
Expl. Rio Tinto
Fecsa (1,000)
Fenosa (1,000)
Finanzauto SA
Finanzauto Servicio
Gal. Preciados
Grupo Velazquez (
Hidrola
Iberduero
Motor Iberica
Olarra
Papeleras Reunidas
Petroliber
Petroleos
Sarrio Papalera
Sniace
Sogefisa
Telefonica
Torras Hostench
Tubacex
Union Elec.
Union y Fenix
Urbis

NOTES: Oversea
premium Belgian
after withholding t
◆ DM50 denom. un
♣ Kr.100 denom. un
♥ Ptas.500 denom. u
◆ Frs.500 denom. u
¶ Yen 50 denom. un
‡ Price at tim
a Florins. b Schillin
dend after pending
issue. c Per share.
div %. h Assumed
and/or rights iss
taxes. m % tax free
Unilac div. p Nom.
and yield exclude sp
cated div. u Unoffici
holders only. v Merg
† Bid. § Traded.
xr Ex rights. xd E
scrip issue. xa Ex
increased.

MINING AND RAW MATERIALS

Metal prices surge ahead in hectic trading

BY JOHN EDWARDS, COMMODITIES EDITOR

METAL PRICES surged up again yesterday on the London Metal Exchange as the setback in the value of sterling and higher prices in New York on Monday encouraged a new wave of speculative buying.

Copper traded at over £900 a tonne for the first time since June 1974 in late kerb trading, after the New York market had risen by the permissible limit up shortly after opening yesterday. Trading in the copper ring was hectic and the bell had to be rung at one stage to calm dealers.

Cash tin gained £63.5 at £3,881 a tonne, its highest level since September 1974.

Cash lead closed £11 up at £256.25 a tonne, but moved about £5 higher in late kerb trading.

There was a similar story in zinc, where the cash price closed £17.875 higher at £441.375 a tonne but advanced still further on the late kerb.

Spot silver on the London Bullion Market was raised by 9.35p to 246.55p an ounce at the morning fixing, reflecting a steep rise in the U.S. markets on Monday. This was the highest level since the short-lived peak of 248.1p reached in August 1975.

There were few surprises in the LME warehouse stocks figures. As expected copper stocks rose by 1,775 tonnes to a new all-time high of 534,225 tonnes. But since the increase was in line with expectations it had virtually no impact on prices.

Although the fall of 450 tonnes to 5,070 tonnes in tin stocks was anticipated, it nevertheless tended to be viewed as bullish since it is the third weekly decline.

A rise of 5,475 tonnes to 53,175 tonnes in zinc stocks was above expectations but had little effect on prices. Lead stocks fell by 300 to 83,650 tonnes, while LME silver holdings declined by 20,000 to 14,970,000 ounces.

Meanwhile, sentiment in the copper market was also affected by the heightened tension in Africa, and news that the Benguela Railway is unlikely to re-open before September to carry copper exports out of Zambia and Zaire.

The latest quarterly review from CIPEC (the inter-governmental Council of Copper Exporting Countries) also presented a bullish picture suggesting that copper prices will have to rise to satisfy medium and long-term industrial needs.

The review claims that the copper price necessary to make new mining projects attractive is more than $1 per lb.

To arrive at this figure 45 cents per lb is taken as probable production cost for the most interesting projects at the present time, 40 cents per lb the minimum necessary for covering an estimated annual interest of 10 per cent. and amortisation of capital over 10 years, and about 15 cents per lb is needed to cover taxes and provide a profit margin during the first 10 years of a mine's operating life.

But the review also pointed out that the world copper production surplus nearly doubled, to an average 69,000 tonnes per month last year against 37,000 tonnes a month in 1974.

CIPEC estimates total stocks at end December 1975 rose to 1.66m. tonnes from 1.048m. a year earlier. Nearly 70 per cent. of the 617,000 tonnes increase was in London Metal Exchange and Comex warehouses, "where it weighs most directly on market prices."

Wool handlers' strike ending

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

CANBERRA, April 20.

NORMAL WORK will resume in wool stores throughout Australia to-morrow. But it is expected to be at least six weeks before the export backlog is cleared after nearly two months of industrial disputes.

Members of the Storemen and Packers' Union accepted recommendations from their officials at a series of meetings to-day to return to work, though "without enthusiasm," according to Mr. Simon Crean, the union's Assistant Federal Secretary.

The Conciliation and Arbitration Commission immediately began hearing a union claim for a wage rise of $A9.10 (£6) a week. The other major issue still outstanding is over wool bale weights and, for the time being, bales exceeding 180 kilos will not be handled. The weight dispute will go to independent arbitration.

The shutdown of wool shipments in recent weeks is estimated to have cost growers, brokers and buyers $A2-3m. and its long-term effects are being watched apprehensively.

Mr. Ian Sinclair, the Minister for Primary Industry, said to-day it would take the wool industry "some months" to get back to normal. The textiles industry had synthetics available to it in quantity and "if I were in textiles I think I would have some reservations about wool."

Wool auctions, suspended since early this month, are expected to resume in a fortnight, with offerings expanded to take account of the backlog.

Our commodities staff writes: The Australian Wool Corporation expects to hold about 1.5m. bales of wool at the end of the current season, a figure slightly below the opening level, according to Mr. Malcolm Vawser, general manager, marketing.

He told the annual meeting of the International Wool Secretariat's branch directors in London that in the absence of a speculative commodity boom the AWC should enter the 1977-78 season with sufficient wool in stock to enable it to exercise some influence on world supply and prices.

● The New Zealand Wool Marketing Corporation will offer 18,000 bales from its stock at four auctions over the next two months, reports Reuter.

The Wool Auction Sales Committee said the Christchurch sale scheduled for May 19 will be turned into a two-day sale on May 17 and 19 as good growing conditions made it likely there will be more than the expected 30,000 bales. The corporation will also offer 8,000 bales to bring the total offering to around 40,000 bales.

At March 31, its stockpile stood at 83,316 bales.

SARAWAK PEPPER EXPORTS RISE

KUCHING, April 20.

SARAWAK exported 29,973 tons of pepper last year, 1,396 tons more than in 1974, the Pepper Marketing Board official publication announces.

Black pepper accounted for 20,299 tons of total exports against 15,622 tons the previous year.

The market swing in favour of black pepper may be due to the smaller price margins between white and black pepper during the year, the publication added. Reuter

Cocoa tops £1,000 a tonne

By Richard Mooney

WITH the London cocoa futures market still firmly in the grip of the latest bull trend, nearby values surged past the £1,000-a-tonne-mark yesterday. The permissible £20-a-tonne limit was breached for the first time almost as soon as the market opened and after the statutory 30-minute break the upsurge was resumed.

The limit rule was brought into operation several more times during the day and by the close July cocoa was £63.5 above the pre-Easter level at £1,045.5 a tonne.

Some dealers attributed the initial rise to the weakness of sterling but others argued that this accounted for only £8 or so, with the rest of the rise representing a continuation of last week's dramatic upsurge. The buying was believed to be chiefly on behalf of speculators, and traders noted that producers were not tempted to sell in any quantity.

Some dealers doubted whether the upturn in consumption indicated by recent grinding figures could really justify the subsequent rise, even with the backing of the sterling depreciation. They said the prospect of a small world supply deficit instead of a small surplus, as expected previously, could not be regarded as calling for a fundamental reappraisal of price levels.

World grain forecast up

THE COMMONWEALTH Secretariat has raised its forecast of 1975-76 world grain production to 901m. tonnes from its February estimate of 896m. following a number of upward revisions in Northern Hemisphere figures.

The new estimate is only 0.5 per cent. below 1974/75 production of the five main grains (wheat, maize, barley, oats and rye).

The estimate for wheat was raised to 357m. tonnes, 1.2 per cent. down on last season, while that for coarse grain was increased slightly to 544m. tonnes—virtually the same as last year.

The secretariat in its monthly grain bulletin says the outlook for 1976-77 crops continues very promising in Western Europe but is less favourable in some areas of the U.S. and the USSR.

Latest estimates continue to indicate the 1975-76 world rice harvest was a record.

COFFEE SUPPLIES

. . . and the unlikely importer is Brazil

BY DAVID WHITE IN RIO DE JANEIRO

AFTER a century's uncontested leadership in world coffee production, Brazil is expected to conclude in the next few days the purchase of a large part of Angola's coffee crop. The amount is believed to be 500,000 bags (60 kilos per bag), and the cost around £36m.

But that is not all. Brazil is rumoured to be looking for yet more coffee in the Ivory Coast, and, just as remarkable considering that Brazil overtook Cuba as the biggest cane sugar producer several years ago, for 200,000 or 300,000 tons of refined sugar in "another Latin American country."

Making the most of the "coals to Newcastle" theme, the Rio de Janeiro newspaper, Jornal Do Brasil, reckons that Brazil has managed to justify imports of most of the things it produces in plenty—up to and including Brazil nuts.

The deal with Angola forms *part of a barter agreement* in which the Angolans are expected to take buses, tractors, lorries, ships, medical equipment and rice from Brazil. A £4.4m credit for the buses and rice is already being arranged.

The reason the Brazilians say they are buying coffee is to safeguard their own stocks of 13m. bags, by supply African Robusta coffee for its own industry. The industry, which has supplies guaranteed by the Brazilian Coffee Institute (IBC), will blend the Angolan raw material with Brazilian Arabica coffee.

Frost damage

But it would be hard to disguise Brazilian hopes that by cornering another chunk of already scarce world supplies the IBC can nudge export prices even higher, now that the sterling *value per tonne of coffee is in* four figures for the first time in history. By so doing, it will help to compensate for last year's frosts, which have more than halved Brazil's coffee output. Plans are for 12m. bags in exports this year, compared with the normal level of around 18m.

Brazil has bought coffee before—from El Salvador in 1973 and on the New York market the following year, when a large amount of Central American coffee found its way to the IBC depot in Trieste. The exercise—a 1m. bag joint purchase by Brazil, Mexico and Colombia—failed to do the trick of lifting prices, however, and the coffee stayed in store.

On other occasions, Brazil has bought decaffeinated coffee from West Germany and instant coffee from the U.S.

Small quantities of sugar have also found their way into Brazil from Venezuela and the U.S., and even raw sugar cane from Guyana, according to Jornal Do Brasil. But the reported Latin American deal would be the first major purchase, at a time when Brazilian sugar production has been badly hit.

Some observers believe, however, that Brazil will not need the sugar to cover its commitments, and that the North-Eastern Brazilian harvest, dam*aged by floods last year, will suf*fice until the start of harvesting in the South, probably next month.

At the same time, the Brazilian Government is discussing proposals to renew meat imports (50,000 tons) from Uruguay, where beef comes cheaper despite the fact that Brazil has 90m. head of cattle—the world's third largest herd.

Brazil has imported such products as peppermint, ground cocoa and peanuts from the U.S., although all three (the former processed into menthol) are among Brazil's more important exports.

The second biggest supplier of soya beans to the world market after the U.S., it regularly buys soya from Paraguay at a rate of some 10,000 tons a year, for re-export.

Other strange imported items cited by Jornal Do Brasil are orange juice from various countries, fresh oranges and tangerines from elsewhere in Latin America, guava jelly from Hong Kong and Italy, cashew nuts from Mozambique — not forgetting of course those Brazil nuts, which actually come from Bolivia.

London coffee prices soar

BY PETER BULLEN

COFFEE PRICES soared by over £100 a tonne on the London terminal market yesterday—the biggest daily rise since the reports of the severe frost damage to Brazilian crops first hit the market last July.

A combination of factors was responsible for the rise which took prices up by around £60 a tonne in the morning and by another £40 or so in the afternoon trading. By the close, July Robustas had reached £1,351 up £101.5 on the pre-Easter week-end close.

The weakness of sterling early in the day was a major factor but the rise in the U.S. market on Monday probably had more effect especially as it followed news of a 40 cents a lb increase in wholesale prices of ground coffee and 6 cents an ounce in instant coffee by the General Foods company.

From Brazil there were reports of a 33 per cent. rise in domestic retail coffee prices. This could have been interpreted as a bearish influence as a rise of a third in prices could well hit local demand but market observers felt that the bullish interpretation — higher prices would enable local buyers to compete with coffee shippers for available supplies—had had more sway.

Although not a major influence, the announcement that French roaster coffee prices will be raised on May 15 also buoyed up bullish sentiment. Reuter reported from Paris that full details of the rise will be made official in a few days. In the meantime, Government sources confirmed that talks were taking place between the administration and manufacturers.

NEW PHILIPPINE RICE VARIETY

MANILA, April 20.

The Philippine Government's plant industry said it has discovered and developed a new rice variety expected to increase the average yield per hectare of the low-yielding rice terraces.

Officials claimed the new variety named the "KN line" matures in 125 days, 75 days ahead of the present varieties.

Cold weather in rice terraces retards growth of ordinary rice varieties, they explained, allowing farmers in the mountains only three crops every two years. The "KN line" will now allow them five crops every two years. Reuter

COMMODITY MARKET REPORTS AND PRICES

BASE METALS

... opened, prices here turned upwards again and when the U.S. market went the permissible "limit-up" forward metal traded at £907 before ending at around £900 in later *inter-office trading. Prices* ended the day at their highest since June, 1974. Turnover: 27,650 tonnes.

Amalgamated Metal Trading reported that in the morning cash wirebars traded at £860, 60.5, three months £892, 92.5, 92, 91.5, 90, 90.5, 91, 92, 91.5, 91, 90, 89, 89, 87, 86.5, 88, 87, 88, 85. Cathodes: cash £855, 54, three months £879, 78, 77, 76, 76.5. Kerb: Wirebars: three months £882, 83, 84, 84, 86, 86.5, 87, 86. Afternoon: Wirebars: cash £860, three months £885, 84.5, 86, 87, 86.5, 88, 85, 86, 87, 88, 89, 90, 92, 91, 92, 93, 92, 91, 92. Cathodes: cash untraded, three months £885, 87. Kerb: Wirebars: three months £898, 99, 900, 01, 899, 98, 99, 900, 01, 02, 04, 03, 02, 04, 05, 06, 07, 908, 06.

TIN—Gained ground reflecting the tone of copper and the weakness of sterling, the Penang market being unaltered over the week-end. Good demand was seen for High Grade cash metal which widened the premium over forward material. In standard metal, offerings from the U.S. in the afternoon held the upward movement in check but the forward price ended at around the day's highest of £3,948. A firming influence was the further fall in warehouse stocks. Turnover: 1,155 tonnes.

TIN	a.m. Official	+ or —	p.m. Unofficial	+ or —
High Grade £	£	£	£	£
Cash	3880-910	+62.5	3890-900	+62.5
3 months	3940-5	+55	3950-55	+50
S'ment	3910	+70	—	
Standard				
Cash	3865-75			
3 months	3935-40			
S'ment	3875			
Straits E.	:$1085			
New York	—			

COCOA

Prices leapt ahead again on a mixture of consumer demand, short-covering, and chartist buying while first-hand sellers backed away, reports Gill and Duffus.

WOOL FUTURES

LONDON—The market rose in line with the fall in sterling. Bache reports.

PRICE CHANGES

Prices per ton unless otherwise stated.

	April 20 1976	+ or —	Month ago
Metals			
Aluminium (a)	£456	....	£430
Free Market (cif)	£445-455	+2.5	£400-415
Copper			
Cash Wire Bars (w)	£865.5	+39.5	£709

U.S. Markets

Limit rise in coffee: copper firm

NEW YORK, April 20.

COPPER closed strong on arbitrage and Commission House buying. Coffee finished limit bid on roaster interest attracting good speculative buying. Cocoa closed heavily limit-bid on Trade and Commission House buying following the strong London market. Sugar closed lower with trade selling outweighing Commission House buying. Bache reports.

Cocoa—Ghana spot 92 nom. (90 nom.). Bahia spot 90 nom. (88 nom.). May 85.28 (83.26). July 81.15 (79.15). Sept. 77.43, Dec. 72.19, March 69.54, May 67.94, July 66.54, Sept. 65.24. Sales: 572 lots.

Coffee—"C" Contract: May 127.55 bid (125.55). July 124.88 bid (122.88). Sept. 123.28 bid Dec. 119.83 bid, March 118.01. Sales: 98 lots.

Copper—April 73.80 (71.80), May 74.00 (71.50), June 74.40, July 74.60, Sept. 75.60 settlements. Sales: 9,066 lots.

Cotton—No. 2—May 61.35 (61.92), July 62.35-62.50 (62.43), Oct. 61.75-61.80, Dec. 60.50-60.40, March 61.25, May 61.60-61.70, July 62.00-62.10, Oct. 62.10 bid. Sales: 5,250.

ф Gold—April 128.20 (128.40), May 128.60 (same). June 128.90 Aug. 129.90, Oct. 130.90, Dec. 132.10, Feb. 133.30, April 134.50, June 135.70, Aug. 136.90 settlements. Sales: 1,124.

Greasewool—Spot 180.0 nom. (177.6 nom.). May 176.0-172.0 (176.0-162.0), July 175.0-179.0 (175.0-179.0), Oct. 175.0-179.0, Dec. 175.0 bid. March 172.0 bid May unq.

†Lard—Chicago loose 15.87 nom. (16.00 asked). NY Prime Steam 17.37 asked (17.50 asked).

††Maize—May 266¼-266½ (266½-266¼), July 271½-271 (270¾-271¼). Sept. 269¾-268¾). Dec. 267-267½, March 274½-274¼, May 278¼.

‡Platinum—July 163.50 (155.50). Oct. 167.50 (158.70). Jan. 170.50 April 173.50-173.90, July 177.50. Sales: 1,650 lots.

‡‡Silver—Spot 456.50 (443.50). April 451.00 (449.50). May 452.00 (450.50). June 454.50, July 457.00, Sept. 462.50 Dec. 471.60, Jan. 474.70, March 480.90, May 487.10, July 493.30 settlements. Sales: 8,860 lots.

*Soyabeans—May 487-488 (487½), July 496-497 (496½), Aug. 501-501½, Sept. 506-504½, Nov. 513-514½, Jan. 521 March 529½, May 536½.

bSoyabean Meal — May 134.70-134.80 (135.10). July 137.70-137.50 (136.30), Aug. 139.00-138.90, Sept. 140.50-140.30, Oct. 141.50, Dec. 143.60, Jan. 144.50-144.90, March 147.50-148.00, May 149.50.

Soyabean Oil—May 16.70-16.72 (16.57), July 16.90-16.92 (16.77), Aug. 16.99-17.00 Sept. 17.10-17.12, Oct. 17.18-17.12, Dec. 17.30-17.32, Jan. 17.30-17.35, March 17.45-17.50, May 17.60.

Tin—331.00-338.00 nom. (same).

Sugar No. 11—Spot 14.30 (14.35), May 14.13-14.02 (14.30-14.25), July 14.22-14.13 (14.39-14.37), Sept. 14.11-14.09), Oct. 14.08-14.00 Jan. 13.95, March 13.88-13.90, May 13.80-13.75, July 13.75, Sept. 13.75. Sales: 5,687.

Wheat—May 349½-349 (351½-352½), July 338-357½ (360½-360½), Sept. 364½-364¾, Dec. 377½-378, March 387½.

WINNIPEG, April 20. ††Rye—May 252½ bid (251½ bid), July 254½-254¾ (254¾ bid), Oct. 260 asked, Nov. 257 nom., Dec. 256½ nom.

cOats—May 162½ bid (163 bid), July 159½ bid (159½), Oct. 153½ bid, Dec. 150 nom.

§Barley—May 228½ (228), July 228 bid (227½ bid), Oct. 232 bid Dec. 219 nom.

dFlaxseed—May 641½ bid (640), July 650½ (647 bid), Oct. 666 asked, Nov. 664 asked, Dec. 661 nom.

Wheat—SCWRS 13.5 per cent. protein content St. Lawrence 457½ (438½).

All cents per pound ex-warehouse unless otherwise stated. * Cents per 60-lb bushel ex-warehouse. ф $'s per troy ounce—100-ounce lots. †Chicago loose $'s per 100 lbs —Dept. of Ag. prices previous day. Prime steam f.o.b. NY bulk tank cars. ‡ Cents per troy ounce ex-warehouse. b New "B" contract in $'s a short ton for bulk lots of 100 short tons delivered f.o.b. cars Chicago, Toledo, St. Louis and Alton. ‡ $'s per troy ounce for 50-ounce units of 99.9 per cent. purity delivered NY. **Cents per 60-lb bushel in store. ††Cents per 56-lb bushel ex-warehouse, 5,000 bushel lots. c Cents per 24-lb bushel. § Cents per 48-lb bushel ex-warehouse, 5,000 bushel lots. d Cents per 56-lb bushel, ex-warehouse, 1,000-bushel lots.

STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

Gilt-edged, equities and Gold shares all make headway

Share index up 5.8 at 414.8, only 2.7 under 29-month peak

Account Dealing Dates

Option *First Dealings	Declarations	Last Dealings	Account Day
Apr. 5	Apr. 14	Apr. 15	Apr. 28
Apr. 20	Apr. 29	Apr. 30	May 11
May 3	May 13	May 14	May 25

* "New time" dealings may take place from 9.30 a.m. two business days earlier.

The first trading day after the Easter holiday saw all three major sections of the stock market get *off to a firm start. Despite some* investors enjoying an extension of the holiday, jobbers were kept fairly busy with mainly *buying* orders which reflected an encouraging week-end Press.

Evidence of a slow-down in the growth of the money supply was *good for British Funds,* which lifted quotations in the shorts by · and left longer-dated maturities *up by ¾. Sterling's disappointing* performance disturbed sentiment slightly and late indications were that some securities could be ½ below the day's best. The Government Securities index improved 0.28 to 63.30 for a five-day advance of 1.68.

Leading equities made good early progress, but the pace of the advance slowed in the afternoon with some leaders closing a penny or so below the day's best. The FT 30-share index, 3.8 better at 10 a.m. and 6.2 up at noon, *touched the day's best with a rise* of 6.6 at 2 p.m. The slightly easier trend at the close left the *index with a net rise of 5.8 at* 414.8, only 2.6 below the 1976 peak of 417.4 touched on January 30 *last; a breakthrough of this point* would put the index at a 29-month high.

Gilts confident again

Secondary equities were buoyant as reflected in the 7-to-1 ratio of rises to falls in FT-quoted Industrials and the 1.8 per cent. rise to 169.07 in the FT-Actuaries All-Share index. Official markings of 5,553 were only a little higher than last Thursday's 4,920.

Gold shares reflected U.S. demand and the steadiness of the *bullion price and the Gold Mines* index rose 4 points to 156.4.

Fresh background stimulants in the shape of last month's money supply figures and the *latest batch of U.S. economic in*dicators gave impetus to the recent upward movement in Gilt-edged. *Although conditions were* obviously post-holiday, there was sufficient interest to make the long "tap," Treasury 12½ per cent., 1993, "A" operative at 95; and produce maximum gains among high-coupon issues of ¾. After-hours' quotations eased *from the best, being slightly un*settled by the trend in sterling. The latter factor also served to cause *some apprehension at the* shorter end of the market, thus restricting both trade and the upward momentum. Corporations again following the main funds with gains to a full point.

A late interest, which reflected largely the efforts of one buyer, *took the investment currency pre*mium up 2 points to 105 per cent. Yesterday's SE conversion factor was 0.6881 (0.6915).

Banks quietly firm

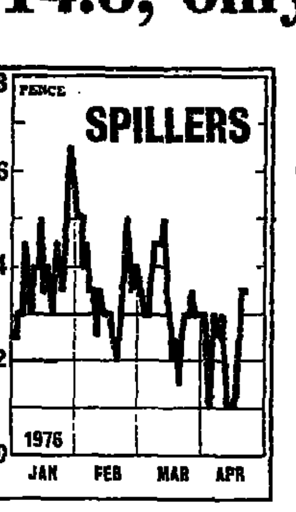
The big four Banks opened the account on a quiet but firm note. The planned increases in charges for personal customers of Barclays left the shares 8 higher at 305p, while similar improvements were seen in Lloyds, 235p, Midland, 295p, and National Westminster, 255p. The firm performance of gilts encouraged Discounts and Alexanders led the way with a rise of 18 to 228p. Union improved 10 at 340p and Gillett Bros hardened 5 to 193p. Jessel Toynbee, with results due next Wednesday, improved 3 at 78p. Merchant banks were a shade firmer, with Arbuthnot Latham 5 up at 180p and Mercury Securities 4 to the good at 117p.

A firm trend was evident in Insurances. Helped by Press comment, General Accident hardened 3 to 178p and Commercial Union *added 2* at 137p. "Royals" put on 4 to 330p following the chairman's annual statement. Leslie *and Godwin hardened 3 to 118p* in front of to-morrow's annual results, but Sun Life, 93p, were *unmoved ahead of* to-day's interim results.

Breweries closed firmer for choice after a small trade. Arthur Guinness gained 3 to 127p and Boddingtons improved 4 at 80p.

Newarthill featured Buildings with a jump of 8 to 62p on the better-than-expected preliminary figures. Benford Concrete moved up 4½ more to 57p xd on further consideration of the preliminary results, while similar gains were seen in AP Cement, 188p, and John Laing 'A,' 106p. Southern Constructions were quoted a fraction cheaper at 13½p ex the "rights" issue, with the new nil-paid shares opening and closing at 3p premium after a light trade. Against the trend, small selling in a thin market left Rohan 6 lower at 27p.

ICI typified market conditions, closing 5 better at 404p, after 405p. Elsewhere, Fisons were raised 16 to 400p xd following Press comment. Alida Packaging rose 8 to 86p, while Carless Capel, 79p, and Lankro, 151p, put on 3 apiece. *Farm Feed,* ahead of to-day's results, hardened 2 to 65p.



Currys higher

Currys featured Stores, rising 8 to 119p on the increased dividend and higher profits. British Home Stores were raised 7 to 360p, while "Gussies" "A," 210p, and Debenhams, 93p, put on 4 apiece. Higher profits took John Menzies up 7 to 132; W. H. Smith "A" moved up 4 to 354p xd in sympathy. Gains of around 4 were *recorded in Audio*tronics, 54p xd, House of Fraser, 90p, and Owen Owen, 70p xd. *S and U Stores attracted interest,* closing 2 harder at 11p.

Electrical leaders traded quietly, with prices partially losing initial small gains. The only reasonably active counter was BICC new nil-paid, which ended a penny firmer at 24p premium, after 26p premium; the old recorded a gain of 3 at 120p, after 122p. Reyrolle Parsons closed 3½ up at 126½p xd, while GEC ended unchanged at 164p, after 166p. Elsewhere, favourable Press comment *left* Dale Electric 6 higher at 138p ahead of to-morrow's annual results. After showing little response last Thursday to the company's reassuring statement on the Army bribes situation, Racal Electronic managed to rally 6 yesterday to 242p. Chloride rose similarly to 114p, while BSR, 102p, Comet Radiovision, 38p, and Fidelity Radio, 70p, displayed gains of 4 apiece. Broxlea Holdings, already the subject of a 25p cash offer from A. F. Bulgin, improved 3 to 28p on news of the possible counter-bid from Rectifier Modules; A. F. Bulgin "A" put on a penny to 16p.

Numerous good features in Engineerings included Tube Investments, 6 higher at 384p awaiting the full report, and Vickers, which rose 4 to 190p ahead of to-morrow's *preliminary results.* Delta Metal gained 5 to 70p and Francis Industries 3 more to 24p, both have annual results due to-day, while *Glynwed rebounded* 7 to 108½p xd. Newspaper mention took Brown and Tawse up 7 to 87p, *Babcock and Wilcox* 5½ higher to 90p xd and 600 Group up a like amount to 84½p. Eva Industries were quoted ex "rights" at 50p with the new nil-paid shares at 14p premium. Others well to the fore took in Davy International, which jumped 8 to *132p, and Head Wrightson,* 5½ to the good at 54½p. Clarke Chapman revived 4 to 73p. Kwikform were *raised 6 to 90p and Rotork moved* up 6½ to 152p xd. Laird put on 5 to 63½p, while Anglo-Swiss *rallied 4 to 28p.* Against the trend, Dunford and Elliott lost 2 to 43p following comment about fund raising possibilities.

Tate and Lyle continued firmly *in Foods, rising 7 more to a 1976* peak of 293p. J. Bibby responded to Press comment with a gain of *6 to 96p, while* Cadbury Schweppes closed 2 better at 53p and Cavenham finished 3 harder *at 134p. Milling concerns attracted* interest. Spillers finishing unchanged at 43½p after 44½p, after *a reasonable turnover following* preliminary figures in line with market expectations and RHM, *which hardened 2 to 34p. Gains of* 5 were scored by Associated Dairies, 217p, and Rowntree Mack*intosh, 228p, while Biscuit manu*facturers had Associated and United 4 higher at 79p and 120p *respectively.* Squirrel Horn, unchanged at 25p, and F. J. Wallis, 2 off at 34p, were quoted ex their *respective scrip issues.*

Ladbroke improved 6 to 106p following Press comment. Pontin's edged up a penny to 25p ahead of Friday's interim figures, while Grand Metropolitan moved up 2½ to 73½p.

Dunbee-Combex good

Miscellaneous Industrial leaders put up a firm performance. The *feature was Pilkington, up 14 at* 342p, while Metal Box ended 8 higher at 280p, Rank Organisation *7 better at 170p, and "Suits" 5 to* the good at 82p. Glaxo added 4 at 410p and Beecham closed 3 *firmer at 385p, after 387p.* Elsewhere, Dunbee-Combex-Marx were an outstandingly good market, ris*ing 20 at 183p on satisfaction with* the planned "rights" offer, increase in dividend, profits estimate and acquisition news. First Finsbury Trust were raised 13½ to 32½p "after-hours" on consideration of the 35p cash offer from John D. Hutchison (U.K.). Week-end Press mention prompted a rise of 3 to 82½p in Silkolene Lubricants and left gains of about 2 in LRC International, 45p, and Giltspur, 36½p. Gibbons Dudley put on 2½ to 71½p in reflection of the chairman's encouraging statement with the full report. An auction between three interested parties for a 10 per cent. stake in Glasgow Rangers Football Club culminated in the holding changing hands at 815p on the Glasgow Exchange and the share quotation ending 50 higher at 775p. Amalgamated Metal rose 26 to 270p in a narrow market.

Motors and Distributors made modest headway. Lucas responded to a Press mention with a rise *of 6 to 226p, while others simi*larly influenced included Dunlop, up 2 more to 96p, and Wilmot-Breeden, 3 higher at 51½p. Zenith Carburetter "A," still reflecting recent trading news, hardened 2½ more to 46pxd. Wadham Stringer gained 2½ to 46pxd in front of *to-day's* results, while Lex Service hardened 1½ to 33p and Pride and Clarke advanced 6 to 145p.

Harrison and Sons were lowered 4½ to 37½p following the depressing preliminary statement, while remaining Paper/Printings were narrowly irregular. Elsewhere, Gordon and Gotch gained 3 to 48p on details of the John Menzies stake.

Oils gain ground

Oils achieved some sizeable gains in a relatively low volume of business. Shell rose to 424p before sporadic profit-taking clipped the improvement to 8, at 422p, Ultramar rallied 10 more to 180p and British Petroleum picked up 5 to 640p. Burmah also recovered following a speculative recommendation and closed 3 higher at 34p, while LASMO/SCOT moved up 5 to 187p as buyers became a little more confident. Overseas issues fared indifferently: Siebens (U.K.) regained a further 15 to 180p, but Sunningdale lost 20 to 845p.

Property leaders continued firmer yesterday in slack trading. MEPC managed to improve *another 3 to 74p,* while gains of 2 were recorded in British Land, 37½p, and Slough Estates, 86p. Land Securities finished a penny harder at 173p. Gains also preponderated elsewhere in the *Property sector, although a dull* exception was Westminster Property, down 1½ at 11p in reflec*tion of the year's loss and* dividend omission. Waite and Son, 80p, relinquished 2 of last *Thursday's advance of 9 which* stemmed from the Meru Group bid approach.

Among firmer-inclined Overseas Traders, Ocean Wilsons closed 6 higher at 118p following news that *Inchcape (3 harder at 433p)* now owns almost 15 per cent. of the equity. Paterson Zochonis, 200p, and 'A,' 195p, both improved 5 in response to favourable Press comment.

Trusts and Financials generally closed better where changed. Awaiting further news on the bid situation, Yule Catto touched a 1976 high of 48p before closing a *net penny better at 47p.* Buyers came for Lubok Investments, 1½ up at 16½p and the 12 per cent. Convertible, which ended 7 points higher at £104. A firm market of late on news that Compagnie Auxiliaire Pour L'Industrie had allowed it's offer to lapse, Chaddesley Investments continued firm at 21½p, up 1. Rothschild rose 9 to 236p but Lamont Holdings were adjusted that much lower at 22p.

Cautious week-end Press comment dampened enthusiasm for Shippings, but prices closed a shade firmer for choice after a small trade. Despite the 22 per cent. contraction in preliminary profits, Ocean Transport were unmoved at 137p.

Youghal Carpets were popular *in Textiles,* rising 6 to 99p. S. Lyles, with results due next Monday, hardened 3 to 50p, while *Allied and Highams* were similarly better at 99p and 33p respectively. Sidlaw Industries gained 4 to 78p *and Tern Consulate* improved a penny to 18p; the latter's results are due next Monday. Courtaulds *closed 2 to the good at 137p.* By way of contrast, David Dixon were lowered 4 to 32p reflecting *business* transacted late last Thursday. Tobaccos joined in the general upturn. Bats gained 5 at 373p and Imps were a penny dearer at 78p.

Gains in Golds

The firmness of Golds in overnight U.S. markets coupled with the steadiness of bullion—unchanged at $128 per ounce, prompted gains in South African Gold shares. A U.S. demand in early dealings and subsequent Cape interest left the Gold Mines index 4.0 *higher* at 156.4.

In the heavyw[eights] ... ranged to £[illegible] (£17) wh[ile] ... to £14. ... stocks. W[estern] ... to 198p a[nd] ... to 190p. ... at 850p; ... affected ... broke ou[t] ...

The ... Consolida[ted] ... after 20[illegible] ... uranium ... Johannes[burg] ...

South ... were mi[xed] ... Golds an[d] ... dollar pr[emium] ... by the la[test] ... "Amcoal" ... 420p and ... point to ... interest, ... £15½.

London ... substanti[al] ... Industria[ls] ... higher at ... buying w[ith] ... to 157p.

Messina ... 270p, aft[er] ... in genera[l] ... ing favou[rable] ... the cont[inued] ... metal pri[ce] ... Potgieter[srust] ... drifted in ...

Austral[ians] ... in line ... night Syd[ney] ... was still ... holiday). ... to 250p a[nd] ... 10 to 540[p].

Elsewh[ere] ... tion rose ... son adv[anced] ... reflecting ... comment.

FINANCIAL TIMES STOCK IN[DICES]

	April 20	April 15	April 14	April 13	April 12
Government Secs.	63.30	63.02	62.60	62.04	61.6[illegible]
Fixed Interest	63.30	62.49	62.08	61.87	61.6[illegible]
Industrial Ordinary	414.8	409.0	405.4	403.1	393.[illegible]
Gold Mines	156.4	152.4	151.9	156.2	157.[illegible]
Ord. Div. Yield	5.02	5.08	5.09	5.13	5.2[illegible]
Earnings Yld % (full)	14.82	15.00	14.81	14.91	15.[illegible]
P/E Ratio (net) (*)	9.91	9.78	9.89	9.82	9.[illegible]
Dealings marked	5,553	4,920	5,166	4,818	4,71[illegible]
Equity turnover £m.	—	68.48	64.01	48.71	41.5
Equity bargains total	—	15,805	15,355	15,404	11,84[illegible]

10 a.m. 413.8. 11 a.m. 414.4. Noon 415.0. 1 p.m. [illegible] 2 p.m. 416.0. 3 p.m. 415.[illegible]

Latest Index 01-246 [illegible]

(a) Based on 52 per cent. corporation tax. (b) [illegible]

Basis 100 Govt. Secs. 15/10/26. Fixed Int. 1928. Ind. [illegible] Mines 12/9/55. SE Activity July-Dec. 1942.

HIGHS AND LOWS

	1976 High	1976 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
Govt. Secs.	65.41 (30/1/76)	60.19 (2/1/76)	127.4 (9/1/35)	49.18 (3/1/75)
Fixed Int.	64.43 (2/2/76)	59.73 (2/1/76)	150.4 (28/11/47)	50.53 (3/1/75)
Ind. Ord.	417.4 (30/1/76)	381.6 (5/1/76)	543.6 (30/5/72)	49.4 (26/6/40)
Gold Mines	246.9 (2/1/76)	140.1 (5/4/76)	442.3 (22/5/75)	43.5 (26/10/71)

S.E. [ACTIVITY]: Daily— Gilt-Edged, Industrials, Speculative, Totals ... 5-day Average— Gilt-Edged, Industrials, Speculative, Totals [illegible]

F.T.—ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES

These indices are the joint compilation of the Financial Times, The Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

EQUITY GROUPS — GROUPS & SUB-SECTIONS (Figures in parentheses show number of stocks per section). Tuesday, April 20, 1976: Index No.; Day's Change %; Est. Earnings Yield % (Max. Corp. Tax 52%); Gross Div. Yield % (ACT at 35%); Est. P/E Ratio (net) (Corp. Tax 52%); Est. P/E Ratio (nil) (Corp. Tax 52%). Thurs. April 15, Wed. April 14, Tuesday April 13, Monday April 12, Year ago (approx.): Index No. Highs and Lows Index: 1976 High, Low; Since Compilation High, Low.

	Equity groups	Index No.	Day's Change %	Est. Earnings Yield %	Gross Div. Yield %	Est. P/E (net)	Est. P/E (nil)	Thurs. April 15	Wed. April 14	Tues. April 13	Mon. April 12	Year ago	1976 High	1976 Low	Since Comp. High	Since Comp. Low
1	CAPITAL GOODS (179)	158.43	+1.9	14.34	5.52	10.50	10.42	155.53	155.58	154.39	153.20	127.89	159.22	143.66	206.57	50.71
2	Building Materials (30)	146.25	+1.7	12.01	6.11	12.57	12.66	143.80	143.64	143.21	142.44	117.40	150.18	138.49	253.84	44.27
3	Contracting, Construction (23)	227.41	+1.8	15.99	4.62	9.71	9.71	223.45	224.25	222.65	224.10	248.07	260.20	222.65	389.33	71.48
4	Electricals (16)	283.72	+2.9	14.42	4.37	10.23	9.94	275.67	275.66	273.60	269.46	228.33	283.72	250.60	350.04	86.71
5	Engineering (Heavy) (13)	186.97	+3.8	20.52	6.14	7.82	7.82	180.20	179.08	176.21	173.56	159.75	186.97	163.90	202.57	94.43
6	Engineering (General) (63)	146.65	+1.0	14.63	5.94	10.15	10.14	145.15	145.38	143.85	142.79	108.78	147.75	125.48	168.59	45.14
7	Machine and Other Tools (9)	58.85	+0.5	14.35	6.39	12.56	12.56	58.58	58.62	58.55	58.53	46.19	60.17	51.19	136.70	19.96
8	Miscellaneous (25)	137.66	+2.2	14.29	6.07	10.76	10.76	134.75	134.61	133.92	133.21	110.00	137.66	121.53	177.41	49.65
9	CONSUMER GOODS (DURABLE) (53)	159.37	+1.9	14.49	4.52	10.32	10.31	157.26	138.22	157.20	156.28	90.59	141.28	121.87	227.78	38.59
10	Lt. Electronics, Radio TV (15)	157.78	+1.6	12.59	3.41	11.66	11.64	155.23	156.95	156.03	154.98	101.07	160.35	139.18	257.41	42.85
11	Household Goods (13)	184.29	+0.1	18.74	6.22	7.95	7.93	184.05	185.05	183.89	183.01	144.78	187.22	163.38	265.22	63.92
12	Motors and Distributors (25)	83.92	+3.1	16.05	5.74	9.58	9.58	81.39	81.44	80.58	80.04	50.55	85.05	70.05	170.59	19.91
13	CONSUMER GOODS (NON-DURABLE) (168)	154.39	+1.9	13.92	5.78	10.96	10.88	151.47	151.41	149.91	148.09	141.55	162.24	148.09	226.08	61.41
14	Breweries (15)	157.40	+1.8	14.33	6.85	10.47	10.47	154.61	154.46	151.82	150.25	156.35	179.43	150.25	281.87	69.47
15	Wines and Spirits (7)	178.12	+1.3	10.55	5.68	14.39	14.39	175.89	175.93	174.80	173.82	167.59	185.89	173.82	257.40	78.81
16	Entertainment, Catering (14)	190.19	+2.4	12.62	6.93	12.20	12.10	185.73	186.28	184.83	183.13	148.59	211.26	182.25	329.99	54.87
17	Food Manufacturing (22)	173.07	+2.1	12.50	4.93	11.45	11.37	169.52	169.57	168.53	166.58	148.82	174.03	162.69	211.65	59.78
18	Food Retailing (16)	139.57	+1.5	11.82	5.01	12.31	12.31	137.79	137.63	137.38	135.97	143.00	150.05	136.51	286.08	54.25
19	Newspapers, Publishing (16)	175.96	−0.1	12.74	5.83	11.78	11.78	176.15	176.54	175.75	176.54	144.81	184.34	163.47	250.29	55.08
20	Packaging and Paper (12)	109.46	+2.3	18.97	7.15	8.04	8.04	107.01	105.98	105.13	105.06	100.98	112.50	104.18	135.69	45.46
21	Stores (34)	127.43	+2.1	11.81	5.33	13.05	13.03	124.82	125.17	123.78	121.50	129.59	136.24	121.50	204.39	52.63
22	Textiles (23)	172.48	+2.4	12.80	6.42	10.31	9.65	168.36	167.98	165.51	163.16	141.73	183.19	163.16	253.72	62.66
23	Tobaccos (3)	226.66	+1.8	19.24	6.25	7.93	7.93	222.72	221.40	218.49	215.67	191.25	256.22	211.56	389.16	94.34
24	Toys and Games (6)	73.73	+3.8	18.49	5.04	7.53	7.53	71.06	71.51	71.51	72.10	42.94	73.73	69.13	135.72	20.92
	OTHER GROUPS (96)															
25	Chemicals (26)	228.74	+2.0	11.32	4.23	12.62	12.61	224.32	224.52	222.43	219.08	143.02	228.74	199.45	228.74	71.20
26	Office Equipment (9)	98.16	+3.1	13.12	5.26	11.61	11.61	96.18	94.99	95.08	94.10	99.78	98.16	86.09	246.06	45.34
27	Shipping (12)	376.87	+0.8	19.07	6.57	6.71	6.45	374.02	372.68	371.59	366.42	380.96	432.64	355.52	517.00	90.80
28	Miscellaneous (49)	170.37	+2.0	13.66	6.26	10.79	10.78	166.96	165.95	166.02	164.12	145.98	172.73	156.79	258.83	60.39
29	INDUSTRIAL GROUP (496)	162.56	+1.9	13.56	5.45	10.88	10.81	159.51	158.46	158.12	156.44	137.00	164.06	152.00	220.17	59.01
30	OILS (4)	366.63	+1.3	11.68	4.48	9.90	9.16	361.78	361.71	360.80	357.15	251.18	366.63	331.34	431.66	87.23
31	500 SHARE INDEX	179.50	+1.8	13.27	5.30	10.72	10.52	176.29	176.24	174.91	173.07	146.78	179.50	167.51	227.95	63.49
32	FINANCIAL GROUP (100)	140.21	+1.9	—	5.20	—	—	137.63	136.98	134.76	132.75	147.53	153.46	132.75	241.41	55.88
33	Banks (6)	168.79	+2.8	18.14	5.02	8.48	8.48	164.20	163.09	160.68	157.24	160.36	192.16	152.93	289.32	62.44
34	Discount Houses (10)	165.76	+2.6	—	7.42	—	—	161.50	160.64	156.63	156.63	163.52	186.52	152.20	293.13	81.40
35	Hire Purchase (5)	120.60	+2.7	—	5.23	—	—	117.47	118.08	116.68	115.58	134.35	132.10	104.50	433.72	38.83
36	Insurance (Life) (9)	123.58	+0.7	—	5.75	—	—	122.70	122.81	120.23	119.07	121.90	129.46	119.06	194.46	44.88
37	Insurance (Composite) (7)	113.31	+1.2	—	8.19	—	—	111.95	111.22	109.14	108.16	113.61	119.75	105.32	155.76	43.96
38	Insurance (Brokers) (9)	247.46	+0.9	8.66	3.97	17.10	17.10	245.29	243.08	238.57	238.97	190.53	249.26	218.26	262.37	65.86
39	Merchant Banks (17)	81.86	+1.5	—	6.74	—	—	80.65	80.12	78.45	78.03	94.72	93.83	77.94	278.57	31.21
40	Property (31)	166.73	+2.7	3.03	2.96	58.30	59.24	162.32	162.10	160.61	155.65	241.22	194.57	155.65	357.40	56.01
41	Miscellaneous (6)	79.01	+0.3	16.55	7.11	9.46	9.46	78.80	79.08	78.54	78.54	75.43	91.98	78.10	303.13	33.29
42	Investment Trusts (50)	161.69	+1.4	3.20	4.49	32.61	32.59	159.52	158.67	156.88	156.10	165.18	184.55	155.54	245.79	71.63
43	ALL-SHARE INDEX (650)	169.07	+1.8	—	5.24	—	—	166.07	165.86	164.31	162.50	146.94	172.64	160.62	228.18	61.92
	COMMODITY GROUPS (Not included in 500 or All-Share indices)															
44	Rubbers (9)	468.14	+1.4	13.69	7.18	11.21	11.18	461.64	461.75	461.75	469.87	468.36	472.20	404.67	555.37	84.68
45	Teas (8)	128.22	+0.4	32.86	9.24	4.13	3.99	127.75	127.53	127.53	128.35	85.51	129.47	117.89	129.47	59.72
46	Coppers (3)	218.38	+6.4	45.25	7.87	2.21	2.21	205.34	202.51	207.57	203.01	419.43	301.47	178.95	567.78	94.08
47	Mining Finance (11)	102.95	+2.0	11.32	4.81	10.00	10.00	100.88	100.88	100.34	101.14	119.78	119.77	86.18	175.90	66.31
48	Tins (8)	104.89	−0.3	11.56	8.41	12.60	11.94	105.24	106.13	106.31	105.90	92.44	106.31	86.09	125.48	64.83
49	Overseas Traders (13)	248.48	+1.3	15.48	4.15	9.75	9.71	245.31	242.28	239.31	239.75	224.15	248.48	229.55	252.83	97.37

	FIXED INTEREST	Tuesday, April 20 Index No.	Tuesday, April 20 Yield %	Thurs. April 15	Wed. April 14	Tuesday April 13	Monday April 12	Friday April 9	Thurs. April 8	Wed. April 7	Year ago (approx.)	1976 High	1976 Low	Since Compilation High	Since Compilation Low
1	Consols 2½% yield	—	13.60	13.66	13.85	14.04	14.13	14.11	14.01	14.00	14.81	—	—	—	—
2	20-yr. Govt. Stocks (6)	51.12	12.75	50.75	50.24	49.62	49.18	49.17	49.39	49.86	48.08	53.45	47.56	115.42	38.27
3	20-yr. Red. Deb. & Loans (15)	50.12	14.74	49.68	49.58	49.58	49.58	49.65	49.57	49.59	48.01	51.46	46.68	113.43	37.01
4	Investment Trust Prefs. (15)	47.67	14.52	47.85	47.85	47.85	47.85	47.85	47.85	47.85	44.83	51.23	46.60	114.41	34.45
5	Coml. and Indl. Prefs. (20)	66.71	14.55	65.61	65.36	65.55	65.63	65.68	65.89	65.98	61.94	71.97	62.76	114.95	47.67

Section or Group	Base Date	Base Value	Section or Group	Base Date	Base Value
Overseas Traders	31/12/74	100.00	Miscellaneous Financial	31/12/70	128.06
Engineering (Heavy)	31/12/71	153.84	Food Manufacturing	29/12/67	114.13
Engineering (General)	31/12/71	153.84	Food Retailing	29/12/67	114.13
Wines and Spirits	10/1/70	144.76	Insurance Brokers	29/12/67	96.67
Toys and Games	16/1/70	135.72	Mining Finance	29/12/67	100.00
Office Equipment	16/1/70	142.76	All Other	10/4/62	100.00
Industrial Group	31/12/70	128.20	† Redemption yield.		

Calculated by Extel Communications Limited (a member of the Exchange Telegraph Group) on an IBM 370 computer.

A list of the constituents of the FT-Actuaries Share Indices is now available from the Publishers, the Financial Times, Bracken House, Cannon Street, London, EC4P 4BY, price 15p, by post 20p.

ACTIVE STOCKS

Stock	Denomination	No. of marks	Closing price (p)	Change on day	1976 high	1976 low
ICI	£1	15	404	+5	411	334
Shell Transport	25p	12	422	+8	424	378
Metal Box	£1	11	280	+8	302	260
BICC 'New'	Nil/pd.	10	24*	+1	24*	16*
Head Wrightson	25p	10	54½	+5½	54½	41
Rank Org.	25p	10	170	+7	195	142
Ultramar	25p	10	180	+10	214	132
Babcock & Wilcox	25p	9	90xd	+5½	90	72
BP	£1	9	640	+5	640	573
Cons. Gold Fields	25p	8	172	+12	220	146
Ladbroke	10p	8	106	+6	116	93
Marks & Spencer	25p	8	94	+1	108	88
R'tree Mackintosh	50p	8	228	+5	228	186
Unilever	25p	8	462	—	464	428
Burmah Oil	£1	7	34	+3	33	31

The above list of active stocks is based on the number of bargains recorded yesterday in the Official list and under Rule 163(1) (e)
* Premium.

Option Report—3-month Call rates

OPTION DEALING DATES

*First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
Apr. 13	Apr. 27	July 8	July 20
Apr. 28	May 10	July 22	Aug. 3
May 12	May 24	Aug. 5	Aug. 17

"Calls" were dealt in Rio Tinto-Zinc, Trust Houses Forte Warrants, Ellis and Goldstein, National Westminster Bank Warrants, Charterhall Finance, Lonrho, Lampa Securities, Berry Wiggins, Ladbroke Warrants, English Property, Dunlop, Grand *Metropolitan* and Warrants. A "put" was done in Dunlop, while "doubles" were arranged in Trust Houses Forte Warrants, Lonrho and National Westminster Bank Warrants.

Industrials							
		Guardian	20	Spillers	5	Shell	22
		G.K.N.	22	Tesco	5	Ultramar	50
A. P. Cement	16	"Hawker Sidd."	35	Thorn "A"	30		
Assoc. Leisure	3	House of Fraser	8	Tube Invest.	27	Mines	
Barclays Bank	22	I.C.I.	21	Unilever	40	Anglo Amer.	50
Beecham	28	"Imps"	7	Utd. Drapery	10	Charter Cons.	16
Boots Drug	12	I.C.L.	14	Vickers	13	Chart'h'll Fin.	6
Bowaters	16	Inveresk	7	Williams Hud'n	4	Cons. Gold	16
B.A.T.	30	Legal & General	13	Woolworths	6	De Beers Def.	35
British Leyland	7	Ladbroke	11			F. S. Geduld	350
BOC Int.	8½	Lloyds Bank	22	Property		Great Boulder	12
Burton "A"	7	"Lots."	4	Brit. Land	4½	Hampton Areas	12
Cadburys	6	"Mams"	6	Cap. Counties	5½	Hampton Prop.	4
Courtaulds	11	Marks & Sp'ncer	10	E.P.	6	Kloof	100
Debenhams	8	Midland Bank	22	Int. Europ.	7	Lonrho	12
Distillers	13	Nat'l West Bank	20	Land Securities	18	Loraine	55
Dunlop	7½	"Do" Warrants	8¼	M.E.P.C.	10	Poseidon	55
Eagle Star	13	P. & O. Dfd.	11	Peachey	5½	Pres. Steyn	200
E.M.I.	17	Plessey	8	Town & City	3½	Rio T. Zinc	17
Gen. Accident	16	R.H.M.	6	Town & Comm.	4	Welkom	55
Gen. Electric	13	Rank Org. "A"	18			West Areas	40
Glaxo	35	Reed Int'l	23	Oils		Western M'ng.	18
Grand Met.	7	Rothmans	4	Brit. Petroleum	40		
G.U.S. "A"	17	Slater Walker	4½	Burmah Oil	7		

NEW HIGHS AND LOWS FOR 1976

Too numerous to name individually the 116 new 1976 highs recorded among securities listed in the Share Information Service yesterday are given below in their subsections. There were 17 new lows.

NEW HIGHS (116)

BRITISH FUNDS (5)
CORPORATION LOANS (2)
FOREIGN BONDS (1)
AMERICANS (1)
BANKS (3)
BUILDINGS (3)
CHEMICALS (5)
DRAPERY & STORES (4)
ELECTRICALS (5)
ENGINEERING (33)
FOODS (4)
HOTELS (1)
INDUSTRIALS (26)
INSURANCE (2)
MOTORS (3)
PAPER & PRINTING (4)
PROPERTY (1)
SHIPPING (1)
TEXTILES (2)
TRUSTS (4)
OILS (1)
OVERSEAS TRADERS (2)
TEAS (1)
MINES (2)

NEW LOWS (17)

BUILDINGS (3)
Burns Anderson — Westbrick Prods. — Carron
CHEMICALS (1)
Catalin
FOODS (1)
Low (W.)
INDUSTRIALS (3)
Burco Dean — Tranwood — Mono Containers
PAPER (1)
Harrison & Sons
PROPERTY (2)
Eng. Prop. 12pcCnv — Westminster Prop.
TEXTILES (1)
Worth (Bond)
TRUSTS (4)
Hume Hldgs. 'A' — Uodown Inv. — Scot. Western 'B' — Lamont
OVERSEAS TRADERS (1)
Caroni

RISES AND FALLS YESTERDAY

	Up	Down	Same
British Funds	46	5	8
Corpns. Dominion and Foreign Bonds	26	1	37
Industrials	658	94	973
Financial and Prop.	264	26	282
Oils	18	3	15
Plantations	12	2	32
Mines	65	12	70
Recent Issues	24	3	40
Totals	1,113	146	1,457

BA[SE RATES]

Allied Irish ... American E[x]... Anglo-Portu[guese] ... Henry Ansb[acher] ... Banco de Je[illegible] ... Banco de Je[illegible] ... Bank of Cyp[rus] ... Bank of N.S.W. ... Banque du Rh[illegible] ... Barclays Ban[k] ... Barnett, Chri[illegible] ... Bremar Hol[dings] ... Brit. Bank of ... ■ Brown Ship[ley] ... Canada Perm ... Cayzer, Bowa[illegible] ... Cedar Holdi[ngs] ... ■ Charterhous[e] ... C. E. Coates ... Consolidated ... Co-operative ... Corinthian S ... Credit Lyonn[ais] ... G. R. Dawe[s] ... Duboff Brot[hers] ... Duncan Law[rie] ... English Tra[ns] ... First London ... ■ Antony Gibb[s] ... Goode Durra[nt] ... Greyhound ... Grindlays Ba[nk] ... ■ Guinness M[ahon] ... ■ Hambros Ba[nk] ... Hawtin & P ... ■ Hill Samuel ... C. Hoare & ... Julian S. H[odge] ... Hongkong & ... Industrial Ba[nk] ... Keyser Ullm[an] ... Knowsley & ... Lloyds Bank ... London & E[illegible] ... London Mer[cantile] ... Midland Ban[k] ... ■ Samuel Mon[tagu] ... ■ Morgan Gren[fell] ... National W[estminster] ... Northern Co[illegible] ... Norwich Ger[illegible] ... Portman Gu[illegible] ... P. S. Refson ... Rossminster ... Schlesinger ... E. S. Schwa[b] ... Security Tru[st] ... Shenley Tru[st] ... Standard Ch[illegible] ... Trade Develo[pment] ... Twentieth C[entury] ... United Bank ... Whiteaway ... Williams & ... Yorkshire Ba[nk] ...

■ Members of th[e] ... committee.
* 7-day deposits ... 5½%.
† 7-day deposits ... under £[illegible] ... over £25[illegible] ...
§ Demand depo[sits] ...
‡ Call deposits ov[er] ...

CORA[L] ... I.G. I[NDEX] ... GOLD [illegible]

INSURAN[CE] ... RA[TES]

† Atlantic Assu[rance] ... Cannon Assu[rance] ... * Address shown u[nder] ... Property Bond ta[ble] ...

MONEY MARKET

Exceptional assistance

Bank of England Minimum Lending Rate 9 per cent. *(since March 5, 1976)*

Day-to-day credit was in very *short supply in the London money* market yesterday, and the authorities gave assistance by buying an *exceptionally* large amount of Treasury bills and Corporation bills from the discount houses. Banks carried forward run-down balances, settlement was made of *large official sales of gilt-edged,* there was an increase in the note circulation, and the authorities *held* maturing local authority bills. On the other hand, the discount houses held maturing Treasury bills, and Government disbursements exceeded revenue payments to the Exchequer.

Discount houses paid 8-8½ per cent. for secured call loans in the early part and closing balances were taken at about 8½-8¾ per cent.

In the inter-bank market overnight loans opened at 8½-8¾ per cent., and touched 8½-9 per cent., before closing at around 7 per cent.

Rates in the table below are nominal in some cases.

April 20 1976	Sterling Certificates of deposits	Interbank	Local Authority deposit*	Local Auth. negotiable bonds	Finance House deposit	Company deposits	Discount market deposits	Treasury bills ф	Bank Bills ф	Fine trade Bills ф
Overnight	—	7-9	—	—	—	8⅞	8 8⅝	—	—	—
2 days notice	—	—	8¼	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
7 days or 7 days notice	—	8¼ 8½	8⅜	—	—	—	8⅜-8½	—	—	—
One month	8⅜-8¼	8¼ 8[illegible]	8⅜	9-8½	8¾ 9	—	8¼	8[illegible]-8¼	8[illegible]-8⅜	9¼-9¼
Two months	8½-8⅜	8⅜-8[illegible]	—	9¼-8⅝	8⅞ 9⅛	—	8¼-8[illegible]	8⅛-8[illegible]	8½	9¼-9⅜
Three months	8[illegible]-8[illegible]	8[illegible]-8¾	8¾	9¼ 8¾	9⅛-9¼	—	8⅜	8[illegible]-8[illegible]	8[illegible]-8[illegible]	9¼-8[illegible]
Six months	9[illegible] 8[illegible]	8[illegible] 9⅛	9⅛-9¼	9¼ 8¾	9½ 9⅝	—	—	—	8[illegible]-8[illegible]	9¼-9⅝
Nine months	9⅝-9½	9½ 9⅝	—	10¼-9¾	9¾	—	—	—	—	—
One year	9[illegible]-9[illegible]	9¾-9[illegible]	10⅜	10⅛-10	10½	—	—	—	—	—
Two years	—	—	11¾	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

† Local authority and finance houses seven days' notice, others seven days' fixed. * Longer-term local authority mortgage rate nominally three years [illegible] per cent.; four years [illegible] per cent.; five years [illegible] per cent. ф Bank bill rates in table are buying rates for prime paper: buying rates for four-month bank bills [illegible] per cent.; four-month trade bills [illegible] per cent. Approximate selling rate for one-month Treasury bills [illegible] per cent.; two-month [illegible] per cent.; and three-month [illegible] per cent. Approximate selling rate for one-month bank bills [illegible] per cent.; two-month [illegible] per cent.; and three-month [illegible] per cent.; one-month trade bills [illegible] per cent.; two-month [illegible] per cent.; and also three-month [illegible] per cent.

Finance House Base Rate (published by the Finance Houses Association) [illegible] per cent. from April 1, 1976. Clearing Bank Deposit Rate for small sums at seven days' notice [illegible] per cent. Clearing Bank Base Rate for lending 9½ per cent. Treasury Bills: Average tender rate of discount 8.4154 per cent.

AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

INSURANCE, PROPERTY, BONDS

OFFSHORE AND OVERSEAS FUNDS

REGIONAL MARKETS

GRIQUALAND EXPLORATION
FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED

corporated in the Republic of South Africa)

FOR THE QUARTER ENDED 31st MARCH, 1976
D CONSOLIDATED RESULTS OF THE GROUP

	Quarter ended 31.3.76	Quarter ended 31.12.75
sults		
t — metres	309	547
— tons	85,000	98,000
ced — tons	10,169	10,788
fibre recovered	12.0	11.0
r ton	R400.6	R370.4
osts per ton	R254.9	R204.2
per ton	R60.4	R52.5
sults	R'000	R'000
rofit	1,012	1,560
tax from non-mining sub-	102	337
	1,114	1,897
st paid — net	(30)	(75)
taxation	1,144	1,972
taxation	237	80
ter taxation	907	1,892
nditure	685	651
expenditure	86	82

ated results are given, as information relating to pany only could be misleading.

l results are based on actual fibre shipments ary from month to month and do not necessarily ro-rata relationship to production and sales for the

was adversely affected during the quarter by l rainy conditions and labour shortages. The labour is at present satisfactory.

g results refer to the activities of ground mines ilst financial results reflect sales of fibre from nes as well as sales of other producers.

On behalf of the Board
C. H. Walters
L. K. Jooste
Directors

ffice:
eet, Johannesburg 2001
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CLUBS

NOTES

FT SHARE INFORMATION SERVICE

BRITISH FUNDS

"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)

Five to Fifteen Years

Over Fifteen Years

Undated

INTERNATIONAL BANK

CORPORATION LOANS

COMMONWEALTH & AFRICAN LOANS

LOANS (Miscel.)

FOREIGN BONDS & RAILS

U.S. $ DM Prices exclude inv. $ premium

AMERICANS

S.E. List Premium 45¾% (based on $1.8475 per £)

Conversion factor 0.6881 (0.6915)

CANADIANS

S.E. List Premium 45¾% (based on $1.8193 per £)

BANKS AND HIRE PURCHASE

Hire Purchase, etc.

BEERS, WINES AND SPIRITS

BUILDING INDUSTRY, TIMBER & ROADS

BUILDING INDUSTRY—Continued

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

CINEMAS, THEATRES AND TV

DRAPERY AND STORES

DRAPERY AND STORES—Continued

ELECTRICAL AND RADIO

ENGINEERING, MACHINE TOOLS

ENGINEERING—Continued

FOOD, GROCERIES, ETC.

HOTELS AND CATERERS

HOTELS—Continued

INDUSTRIALS (Misc.)

هكذا أصله الأصل

هكذا اصل الأصل

INDUSTRIALS—Continued

INSURANCE

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT TRADES

Motors and Cycles

Commercial Vehicles

Components

Garages and Distributors

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

PAPER, PRINTING, ADVERTISING

PROPERTY

PROPERTY—Continued

SHIPBUILDERS, REPAIRERS

SHIPPING

SHOES AND LEATHER

SOUTH AFRICANS

TEXTILES

TOBACCOS

TRUSTS, FINANCE, LAND

Investment Trusts

TRUSTS—Continued

Finance, Land, etc.

OILS

OVERSEAS TRADERS

RUBBERS AND SISALS

TEAS

India and Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Africa

MINES

CENTRAL RAND

EASTERN RAND

MINES—Continued

FAR WEST RAND

1976 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Y'ld Gr's
710	350	Blyvoor 25	450	......	‡Q100c	1.3	‡
£14	785	Buffels R1	850	......	Q180c	1.4	12.5
198	95	Deelkraal R0.20	120	......	—	—	—
760	330	Doornfontein R1	380	+10	‡Q110c	1.4	‡
965	640	East Drie R1	700	+25	Q75c	1.7	6.4
280	160	Elandsr'd Gld Mng 20c	190	+6	—	—	—
190	115	Elsburg R1	130	+6	Q33.8c	1.0	15.0
£16½	£11¼	Hartebeest R1	£11½	+¾	Q215c	1.4	11.1
695	430	Kloof Gold R1	450	......	Q55c	1.4	7.2
760	400	Libanon R1	450	+10	‡Q110c	1.9	‡
740	335	Southvaal 50c	395	+5	Q8c	1.3	1.2
245	140	Stilfontein 50c	148	+3	Q36c	2.2	10.4
£20½	£10¾	Vaal Reefs 50c	£14	+⅝	Q175c	2.1	7.4
420	190	Venterspost R1	209	+5	‡Q70c	1.9	‡
£35	£19¾	W. Drie R1	£21½	+¼	‡Q185c	1.2	‡
315	165	W'st'rn Areas R1	198	+13	Q52c	1.4	18.1
£15¾	775	Western Deep R2	920	+30	Q147½c	1.6	9.5
290	190	Zandpan R1	210	+6	Q35½c	1.0	10.1

O.F.S.

1976 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Y'ld Gr's
170	75	Fr. State Dev. 50c	95	......	Q14c	1.6	8.7
£22½	£12	F.S. Geduld 50c	£13¾	+½	‡Q330c	1.9	‡
120	57	F.S. Saaiplaas R1	74	+2	26c	0	4.8
465	295	Harmony 50c	350	+15	Q65c	ϕ	11.0
195	70	Loraine R1	86	+2	Q6c	0.5	4.1
£18½	950	Pres. Brand 50c	£10¼	......	‡Q250c	1.3	‡
£13	700	Pres. Steyn 50c	745	+5	‡Q125c	2.2	‡
£23	£12	St. Helena R1	£13¼	+½	‡Q250c	1.2	‡
174	86	Unisel	103	+5	—	—	—
330	220	Welkom 50c	245	+5	‡Q55c	1.7	‡
£25½	£14	W. Holdings 50c	£17	+¾	‡Q475c	1.2	‡

FINANCE

1976 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Y'ld Gr's
420	315	Ang. Am. Coal 50c	420	+10	MQ38c	2.8	5.4
375	235	Ang. Amer. 10c	265	+3	Q33c	ϕ	7.4
£28¾	£17¾	Ang. Am. Gold R1	£19¾	−¼	Q260c	ϕ	8.0
£12¾	850	Ang. Vaal 50c	£10	+0	†Q95c	3.7	3.7
199	118	Charter Cons.	157	+10	†6.23	2.2	6.1
220	146	Cons. Gold Fields	172	+12	g7.37	4.3	6.6
23½	15	E. Rand Con. 10p	17½	......	1.0	ϕ	8.8
330	185	Geduld Inv. R1	220	......	Q40c	1.5	10.8
£25	£15½	Gen. Mining R2	£16½	......	Q210c	ϕ	7.6
£22½	£14¼	G. Fields S.A. 25c	£15¼	−¾	Q225c	1.3	8.8
£24	£11½	Jo'burg Cons. R2	£16	......	Q165c	2.5	6.1
345	200	Middle Wit 25c	320	+20	†Q28c	2.0	5.2
240	168	Minorco SBD1.40	190	+2	‡Q14c	—	‡
160	85	New Wit 50c	100	......	Q20c	1.6	11.9
£11¾	770	Patino NV Fls.5	£11	−¼	QC40c	10.5	1.1
810	480	Rand Selection 50c	540	......	Q75c	1.5	8.2
555	460	Selection Trust	525	+10	14.0	2.0	4.1
230	135	Sentrust 10c	152	......	Q30c	1.2	11.7
62	45	Silvermines 2½p	56	+2	‡u4.0	1.6	‡
130	95	SW Africa 20p	130	+5	†17.87	2.0	21.2
£12½	700	T'vaal Cons. Ld. R1	875	−25	Q65c	2.0	4.4
310	170	U.C. Invest R1	200	......	Q35c	1.0	10.7
465	245	Union Crp. 6.25c	300	......	Q42c	1.4	8.3
82	45	Vogels 2½c	70	+5	Q6½c	1.2	5.5

DIAMOND AND PLATINUM

1976 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Y'ld Gr's
£32½	£17½	Anglo-Am. Inv. 50c	£20¾	......	Q244c	ϕ	7.2
105	68	Bishopsgate Pt. 10c	84	+4	†Q4.5c	ϕ	3.0
335	198	De Beers Df. 5c	209	+1	Q28c	ϕ	7.9
£14	850	Do. 40pc Pf. R5	£10	......	Q200c	ϕ	11.8
117	69	Lydenburg 12½c	94xd	+4½	†Q2.9c	1.5	1.9
188	108	Pot. Plat. 2½c	158xd	+9	†Q5c	1.0	1.9
148	90	Union Plat. 10c	120xd	+6	†Q4.96c	1.0	2.5
148	88	Waterval 5c	122xd	+7	†Q5.2c	1.0	2.4

CENTRAL AFRICAN

1976 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Y'ld Gr's
165	70	Coronation 25c	108	−7	‡Q34c	2.1	‡
127	85	Falcon Rh. 50c	90	......	†Q35c	1.3	—
42	25	Globe Phnix 12½p	26	......	1.25	0.2	7.4
19	11	Rho.-Corp. 16⅔p	12	......	0.56	6.0	7.2
170	135	Roan Cons. K4	149	......	‡Q16.0	4.7	‡
175	142	Tanganyika 50p	150	+2	‡Q26	1.2	‡
68	65	Do. Pref. 80p	65	......	Q9	18.6	11.6
48	25	Wankie Col. Rh.1	28	−2	†Q6½c	1.3	10.0
46	24	Zam. Cpr. SBD0.24	29	+1	QUS4c	3.2	7.1

AUSTRALIAN

1976 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Y'ld Gr's
26	18	Acmex 25c	24	......	—	—	—
184	132	A. M. and S. 50c	180	+2	Q7c	ϕ	2.5
127	96	Bougainville 50c	126	+3	Q10c	ϕ	5.2
196	145	BH South 50c	160	+2	—	—	—
75	35	Gold M. Kalg. $1	35	......	—	—	—
76	58	Hamptn Areas 5p	64	......	1.18	4.2	2.8
54	38	Metals Ex. 50c	45	+1	—	—	—
20	14	Metramar 20c	14	......	—	—	—
255	200	M.I.M. Hldgs. 50c	250	+6	‡Q10c	1.8	‡
100	70	M. Lyell 25c	65	......	‡Q5c	2.4	‡
2½	2	Newmetal 10c	2	......	—	—	—
169	138	North B. Hill $1	156	+1	Q9c	1.4	3.7
9	5	North Kalg. 30c	5½	......	—	—	—
74	65	Oakbridge SA1	70	......	†Q8c	1.3	7.5
18	14	Pacific Cppr. 25c	16	......	—	—	—
£19½	725	Pancont'l 25c	825	......	—	—	—
15	9	Paringa M&Ex. 5p	11	......	—	—	—
555	430	Peko-Walls'd 50c	540	+10	Q15c	ϕ	1.8
190	140	Poseidon 20c	165	......	—	—	—
13	9	Vultan Min. 50c	9	......	—	—	—
9	4	Westmex 10c	7	......	—	—	—
172	134	W. Mining 50c	154	+1	‡Q8c	0.8	n—
54	36	Whim Creek 20c	44	......	—	—	—

TINS

1976 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Y'ld Gr's
45	28	Amal. Nigeria	28	......	5.62	1.6	30.9
228	160	Ayer Hitam	216	−2	†13.0	1.8	9.3
27	17	Beralt Tin	25	......	21.75	—	10.9
355	315	Berjuntai SM25	350	......	‡Q5M2	ϕ	‡
16	13	Ex Lands 10p	14	......	15	3.8	16.5
195	155	Geevor	195	......	‡12	2.3	‡
12	10	Gold & Base 12½p	10	......	—	—	—
210	170	Gopeng Cons.	205	......	11.0	1.3	8.3
70	64	Hongkong	70	......	—	—	—
70	56	Idris 10p	66	......	6.7	2.2	15.6
7	6	Jantar 12½p	6	......	—	—	—
37	31	Kamunting 15p	32	......	‡7.0	1.2	‡
195	135	Killinghall	195	......	Q50.0	ϕ	25.6
170	147	London Tin 20p	167	......	ϕ7.0	1.3	6.4
212	168	Malay Dredging	203	......	10.7	2.0	8.1
38	20	ΔPahang	25	......	Qh2.6	ϕ	16.0
55	40	Pengkalen 10p	50	......	7.0	1.5	21.5
112	104	Petaling SM1	108	......	—	—	—
40	19	Saint Piran	36	......	—	—	—
100	64	South Kinta 10p	64	......	‡9.5	1.5	‡
167	105	Sthn. Malayan	163	−2	10.7	0.9	10.1
37	31	Sungei Besi 20p	35	......	‡6.0	3.0	‡
33	29	Sungei Way SM1	33	......	ZQ10	—	5.3
48	40	Tanjong 15p	45	......	4.0	ϕ	13.7
52	40	Tongkah Hb SM1	40	−2	Q23%	0.6	11.2
92	58	Tronoh	90	−1	4.29	ϕ	7.3

COPPER

1976 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Y'ld Gr's
70	42	Botswana RST R2	50	......	—	—	—
335	170	Messina R0.50	270	+40	Q35c	1.9	7.7

MISCELLANEOUS

1976 High	Low	Stock	Price	+ or −	Div Net	Cvr	Y'ld Gr's
10	8	Burma Mine 17½p	9	......	m0.5	—	1.5
39½	23	Charterhall 5p	24½	+1½	—	—	—
880	580	Cons. Murch. 10c	790	+20	Q80c	1.8	6.0
40	28	Laurasia	32	......	—	—	—
455	245	Northgate C$1	350	+10	Q25c	0.3	3.7
227	178	R.T.Z.	227	+1	5.42	ϕ	3.7
112	85	Sabina Inds. C$1	87	+2	—	—	—
£11⅝	£10	Tara Exptn. $1	£11½	......	—	—	—
122	88	Yukon Cons. C$1	110	......	—	—	—

NOTES

Unless otherwise indicated, prices and net dividends are in pence and denominations are 25p. Estimated price/earnings ratios and covers are based on latest annual reports and accounts and, where possible, are updated on half-yearly figures; they are adjusted to ACT of 35 per cent. P/Es are calculated on the basis of net distribution; bracketed figures indicate 10 per cent. or more difference if calculated on "nil" distribution. Covers are based on "maximum" distribution. Yields, assuming maintenance of net dividends on current rate of ACT, are based on middle prices, are gross and allow for value of declared distributions and rights. Securities with denominations other than sterling are quoted inclusive of the investment dollar premium.

- Δ Sterling denominated securities which include investment dollar premium.
- ● "Tap" Stock.
- * Highs and Lows marked thus have been adjusted to allow for rights issues for cash.
- † Interim since increased or resumed.
- ‡ Interim since reduced, passed or deferred.
- ‡‡ Tax-free to non-residents.
- ϕ Figures or report awaited.
- †† Banks and Insurance: reserve allocations may preclude calculation of dividend cover.
- # Price at time of suspension.
- ¶ Indicated dividend after pending scrip and/or rights issue: cover relates to previous dividend or forecast.
- ** Free of Stamp Duty.
- ♦ Merger bid or reorganisation in progress.
- ♯ Not comparable.
- ♦ Same interim: reduced final and/or reduced earnings indicated.
- ¢ Based on 1973 profits.
- ‡ Cover allows for conversion of shares not now ranking for dividends or ranking only for restricted dividend.
- ★ Cover does not allow for shares which may also rank for dividend at a future date. No P/E ratio usually provided.
- ♥ Excluding a final dividend declaration.
- ✣ Regional price.
- ‖ No par value.

a Tax free. b Figures based on prospectus or other official estimate. c Cents. d Dividend rate paid or payable on part of capital; cover based on dividend on full capital. e Redemption yield. f Flat yield. g Assumed dividend and yield. h Assumed dividend and yield after scrip issue. j Payment from capital sources. k Kenya. m Interim higher than previous total. n Rights issue pending. q Earnings based on preliminary figures. r Australian currency. s Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. t Indicated dividend: cover relates to previous dividend, P/E ratio based on latest annual earnings. u Forecast dividend: cover based on previous year's earnings. v Tax free up to 30p in the £. w Yield allows for currency clause. y Dividend and yield based on merger terms. z Dividend and yield include a special payment: Cover does not apply to special payment. A Net dividend and yield. B Preference dividend passed or deferred. C Canadian. E Issue price. G Assumed dividend and yield after pending scrip and/or rights issue. K Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1976-77. M Figures based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1976. N Dividend and yield based on prospectus or other official estimates for 1976. Q Gross. T Figures assumed. U No significant Corporation Tax payable. Z Dividend total to date.

Abbreviations: xd ex dividend; xc ex scrip issue; xr ex rights; xa ex all; xd ex capital distribution.

"Recent Issues" and "Rights" Page 23

This service is available to every Company dealt in on Stock Exchanges throughout the United Kingdom for a fee of £225 per annum for each security

FINANCIAL TIMES
Wednesday April 21 1976

France unveils modest capital gains tax

BY RUPERT CORNWELL — PARIS, April 20.

THE FRENCH Government has unveiled its long-awaited plans for a capital gains tax, a key element in Preident Giscard d'Estaing's reform programme and a step which will bring France belatedly into line with most other industrial nations.

The draft Bill outlined tonight by the Finance Minister, M. Jean-Pierre Fourcade, covers all kinds of capital gains, from property to shares, jewels, *antiques and gold*. But the proposals are modest when set against the corresponding taxes existing already in Britain or the U.S.

Should all go well, they will be approved by Parliament later this year and take effect from January 1, 1977. But the net direct yield for the French Treasury will be a mere Frs.1.1bn. (£125m.) of fresh revenue and only 200,000 to *300,000 of France's 13m.* taxpayers will be affected.

An essential difference between *the French plans and the* system in force in the U.K is the distinction that M. Fourcade *intends between long-term and* short-term capital gains and the allowance made for inflation.

Proceeds from the sale of assets held for two years or less will be taxed as ordinary income up to a maximum rate of 60 per cent., and monetary depreciation will not be taken into account.

The tax, however, will progressively taper off for goods held for a longer period and those in a person's possession for 40 years or more will escape completely. In the intervening period, the tax collectors will allow deductions for price inflation as well as, from 10 years *onwards, a 3.3 per cent.* allowance for each extra year the asset has been held. In this way, the Minister argued, the twin aims of justice and moderation would be achieved.

The new legislation makes other important concessions. Completely exempted will be gains derived from the sale of a main residence, of long-term bonds and gains made by small traders and farmers.

Everyone will be entitled to a Frs.3,000 (£355) threshold below which no tax will be levied. For transactions involving shares, objets d'art or antiques, an annual allowance *of Frs.10,000 (£1,150)* will be granted—and, to simplify administration, sales of such assets will be liable to a flat 4 per cent. tax.

Gold, so dear to the Frenchman, also comes in for favoured treatment. The sacrosanct anonymity surrounding dealings in the metal will be preserved by the device of charging the 4 per cent. tax when a sale is made.

In addition, the Napoleon, traditional refuge of the little man in times of trouble, will be *completely exempted*. The market signalled its relief by pushing up the coin's price by Frs.10 to Frs. 240 in a near-record turnover.

M. Fourcade explained that *the plans were designed not only* to correct some of the more glaring defects of a notoriously unfair tax system, but also to do nothing to interfere with the smooth working of the economy.

Be this as it may, the limited scope of the reform will undoubtedly disappoint the Left and others who have long pressed for a radical overhaul of France's tax laws.

It may also be doubted—*despite the Minister's hopes that* they would have a "moralising" effect on the taxpayer's mentality—whether the plans will make even a dent in tax evasion here. Recent estimates put this at over Frs.50bn. (£5.6bn.) yearly, or around one-sixth of the total national budget.

Devalued lira helps firms cut EEC fines

By David Curry

SIX French, Dutch and Belgian companies have effectively reduced by up to 40 per cent. fines imposed upon them originally by the European Commission for breach of anti-trust legislation by paying in the devalued lira instead of their national currency.

The fines were imposed in units of account, an entirely *fictional currency whose value* in national currencies was last calculated before the 1971 Smithsonian agreement. The unit of account is also used for the Common Market's budget and to calculate national contributions.

The companies, it is understood, were able to manipulate this system to their advantage by purchasing lire on the foreign exchange markets and converting them into units of account at the pre-Smithsonian rate before paying their fines.

At the beginning of this year the European Court heard appeals from 16 sugar companies against fines imposed on them by the Commission for breach of competition law.

The court quashed the fine against six Italian companies on the grounds that they were only obeying Italian regulations which the Commission had omitted to challenge. It also reduced the fines on other producers on the grounds that the main offender was the way the market was officially organised, rather than the action of specific companies working within it.

That left fines remaining amounting to just under 1.4m. units of account, including a 600,000 units fine on the *Belgian concern, Raffinerie* Tirlemontoise.

It was expected that each company would pay the amount in national currency, but the Dutch, French and Belgian *companies, took advantage of* the fact that their own currencies had immensely strengthened against the lira, while the lira rate to the unit of account remained at its old *parity of around 625*.

Thus, the Belgian company, instead of paying B.Frs.30m. bought L357m. in settlement of the fine at a cost of only B.Frs.18.5m.

One of the French companies reduced the cost of its 100,000 units of account fine from F.Frs.555,000 to about Frs.340,000 by buying lire.

There seems little the Commission can do in the short term except refer the case back to the European Court. By airing the problem before the court, it hopes to deter other companies from taking the same financial short-cut. In *the longer term, it highlights* the need to switch to a market-valued unit of account.

Kodak undercuts Polaroid model

BY JAY PALMER — NEW YORK, April 20.

EASTMAN KODAK'S long-awaited new instant-print colour camera will retain in the U.S. at a list price well below that of Polaroid's closest competing model. The new camera, named the "EK 4" to sell at $53.50 (about £29), was unveiled to-day by Mr. Walter Fallon, Kodak's president.

The company simultaneously announced two other, more expensive, instant cameras—the "EK 6" and "EK 8." These cameras, which will incorporate more sophisticated features, will sell at, respectively, $69.58 and about $140.

Mr. Fallon said that both the *EK 4 and the EK 6 will be* launched in Canada on May 3 and in the United States as from June 28. EK 8 would only be available in very limited quantities as from the end of the year, and none of the new cameras would be sold overseas "until sometime next year."

Kodak's move into the instant-print camera market, in head-on competition with Polaroid, has been expected for some years. *The launch to-day of Kodak's* first new product since the pocket camera in 1972 follows *ten years of research* and ends Polaroid's effective 30-year monopoly.

Ever since Kodak hinted in its 1974 annual report that it was nearing a launch, Polaroid's stock market performance has reflected the potential new competition. *Kodak's EK 4 will sell* (before discounts) at near $10 less than Polaroid's "Pronto" and thus gain an advantage quite apart from Kodak's stronger marketing capability.

All three models will use the same new colour film pack, which will sell at $7.55. Both the EK 4 and the EK 6 have a three-element 137 mm plastic lens with electronic shutter *speeds of between 1/300 and* 1/20 of a second, electronically programmed to two variable *apertures of f16 and f11.*

While the EK 6 delivers the colour print automatically under battery power, the EK 4 incorporates a side crank winder. Specifications of the EK 8 were not released, but the company did disclose that it would be collapsible. All the models incorporate flash mountings, mechanical focusing and dry-colour prints fully developed in no more than eight minutes.

Polaroid to-day refused to speculate on the impact of the new competition and the company's shares were suspended from trading on the New York Stock Exchange because of an imbalance of sell orders.

Sharp interest rate increase forecast

BY ANTHONY HARRIS

THERE is a danger of a monetary explosion, or a sharp rise in interest rates later this year, because the Government is repeating the fiscal mistakes of the Heath administration in 1971-72, according to stockbrokers Greenwell.

The stockbroking firm, in the sharpest criticism of Government policy to emerge from the City since the Budget, argues that the enlarged public sector financial deficit implied by the Budget is "completely inappropriate" now *that the economy is beginning* to expand and inflation to abate. Whereas last year a large injection of liquidity was required to finance the economy through 25 per cent. inflation, the deficit this year will be extremely expansionary.

If no action is taken to correct the imbalance, Greenwell argues, some combination of the following results will follow:—

● Inflation will accelerate again: "There is an acute danger that inflation could rise even higher, indeed much higher, than *in 1974-75*";

● Growth will accelerate, but after a lag, and only briefly;

● The balance of payments will deteriorate unnecessarily;

● There will be an outburst of *financial speculation*—probably in commodities.

Unless the fiscal balance is corrected, these consequences could only be prevented by a very sharp rise in interest rates, which would choke off the economic recovery. It was precisely to avoid this setback, Greenwell points out, that the Heath administration permitted an explosive growth of the money supply after the Government deficit following the 1972 Budget proved excessive.

Greenwell claims that other commentators have been misled because a large public sector *deficit was accommodated with*out straining monetary policy last year; but this was in fact simply a result of the recession.

As the upswing develops, on the other hand, the demand for finance from industry will rise to meet stockbuilding and investment, while personal saving is likely to fall from its recent record levels as confidence returns.

The broking firm adds that the problem will be much more acute if industry is not allowed to restore an adequate cash flow, and is thus driven to greater borrowing. Underlining this implied warning against too rigid a *use of price controls*, the firm explains that without a cash flow recovery "it is almost impos*sible to finance an economic* recovery without incurring an explosion in the money supply."

THE LEX COLUMN

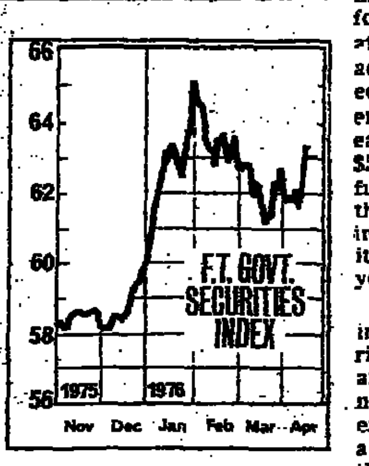
Ocean turning the corner

Ocean's forecast of broadly similar profits in 1976 masks a firm improvement in its underlying operations, just as the 1975 figures understate the *extent of the problems faced* last year. As forecast, profits are down from £29m. to £22.6m. —and they would have been nearly £5½m. lower still but for *a jump in profits on ship sales*, a favourable (and non-recurring) accounting charge, and a fall in special pension costs. Allowing for these items, profits have turned out broadly in line with 1973's levels — which is still a good deal better than some of the competition has managed—while the forecast for 1976, when ship sales will be negligible, implies an underlying increase of roughly an eighth after adjusting for interest savings on the £23m. rights issue.

The OCL associate already seems to be turning the corner. Its profits dropped by about two-fifths last year, but were better in the second half than the first, and the company has paid its first dividend. Elsewhere Ocean has little exposure to the problems of the tanker and bulk carrier markets, and the outlook for cargo liners—according to a current review of U.K. shipping by brokers Hoare Govett—is now attractive. For cargo liners, at least, 1975's downturn looks like nothing more sinister than the familiar cyclical story.

Ocean also has a strong balance sheet, with net cash of maybe £20m. and shareholders' funds roughly twice as large as the £91m. of shipbuilding loans. This stability gives it obvious attractions relative to other shipping majors, and although it has substantially outperformed the market over the past year it still yields over 7½ per cent. But a market capitalisation of £150m. at 137p is already looking for a big upturn *in 1977.*

Index rose 5.8 to 414.8



Spillers

Spillers' 1975-76 profits are £8.1m. higher at £15.47m. pre-tax including £1.1m. of losses in Zambia—and that is roughly in line with November's rights issue projections. Of the £7½m. rise before interest, some £4m. is due to reduced losses in baking—bread was £7m. in the red in 1974-75 but actually broke even over the first half of last year—with the rest spread mostly across milling and groceries.

For the current year profit projections tend to focus on £19m. pre-tax; loss elimination *in Zambia and a full 12-months* of the rights cash take profits up to around £17¾m., while the group has made a steady enough start to 1976-77, animal feeds apart. So that sort of performance does not require much underlying growth. But then the present yield is 9.1 per cent. covered 1.8 times by earnings on average capital.

Meanwhile, the price of bread went up 1p this month, and the group has hopes for some *further easing of margin pres*sures when the Price Code is revised in July. But redundancy payments will have to be made again this year, and the price of wheat is in a clear uptrend. Milling, groceries, pet foods and meat are all modestly ahead to date: and although margins in animal feeds remain weak volume has at least levelled out. As for the balance sheet, group debt is currently just over £40m. net, against tangible share*holders' funds roughly double* this figure.

Toy takeover

Dunbee-Combex-Marx yesterday provided the right sort of background—a profits rise of a quarter to £3.5m. pre-tax and a forecast dividend increase of over a half in 1976—for a major acquisition and its third rights issue in four years. The shares jumped 20p to 183p on the news. The purchase of toy interests in and Hong Ko means a major for DCM, curr at £16.8m.: th acquired lost equivalent of c end-1975 net w early 1970s, the $5m. to $6m. a ful of a quick the first half including certa items, to profi year.

The group po *in turning rou* risks and the p are both greate need for a bro explains the ir a £2.5m. rig though the gr with no geari shareholders' comparing with after the acquis not have been spare on the pr at the peak bo *the summer.* of this acquisiti tainly support market so so enough recor strengthened deal with Russ shares have al per cent. so h the group has can succeed wi failed.

Currys

Some of the lists have bee since the Budg Currys rose 8p company make VAT reductio *immediate im* Of course it although a ch up demand pl per cent. cut would normall have a swift inf trends. As i clearly headi lower profits in 1976-77 — havi pre-tax a year overall, against 1975. There w additions to s year. Howeve cash is curren to judge by in and the yield is covered 4.3 t

U.K. toymaker buys interests in U.S.

BY TERRY WILKINSON

DUNBEE COMBEX MARX, the U.K. toys and do-it-yourself group, is paying $15m. (£8.2m.) *for the toy interests of Louis* Marx—a subsidiary of Quaker Oats of America—in the U.S., Canada and Hong Kong.

The acquisition follows four months of talks and is an *important expansionary move* for the group. DCM yesterday announced pre-tax profits for 1975 of £3.5m., compared with £2.8m. for 1974, on sales of £37m. The company believes that the assets which it is acquiring have the potential to produce turnover of $70m. (£38m.). A £2.5m. rights issue is also planned, details of which will be circulated in the next four to six weeks.

An initial payment of $5m., towards the purchase consideration of $15m., has been raised through a Eurodollar loan and the remainder, subject to conditions surrounding the disposal of sur*plus assets and toy moulds*, will be paid to Quaker Oats in instalments from 1977 to 1982.

Quaker Oats purchased Louis Marx of America in 1972 for $58m. (including a small Mexican associate which is not included in the present acquisition) but this subsidiary lost $4m. in 1974 and $13.2m. in 1975. Against this background, the assets and stock of the U.S. and Canadian interests of Louis Marx are being purchased at $11.6m., which is substantially below book value. The Hong Kong companies, however, are to be acquired at net asset value of $3.4m.

DCM aims to restore the Marx companies to profitability in the current financial year, in much the same way as it turned round Rovex, acquired from the liqui*dator of Lines Bros. in 1972* for £3m., from pre-acquisition losses of £1m. in 1971 to profits of over *£2m. in 1975.*

The deal will transform DCM's international standing. Com*pared with 1975, when exports* accounted for some 12 per cent., and overseas sales about 13 per cent. of turnover, direct overseas operations and U.K. export sales are forecast to represent 60 per cent. of turnover in 1976. This latter figure will also include supplies under an agreement with the Soviet toy trade, signed in *July, 1975*, which is expected to contribute around £¼m. to pre-tax profits this year.

The planned *£2.5m.* rights issue follows closely on a one-for-ten rights issue in July, 1975, *which raised a net £505,000.* At that time, the Treasury agreed to a net dividend payment of 6.552p a share for 1975, compared with 3.7p for 1974. In the context of the present rights issue, the Treasury has now agreed to a further increase in the net payment to 10.0p for 1976.

Freight Corporation changes urged by Pettit

BY ARTHUR SMITH, INDUSTRIAL STAFF

FINANCIAL reconstruction of the State-owned National Freight Corporation is being urged by Sir Daniel Pettit, the chairman.

NFC is expected to report a loss for last year of around £30m. *The Government has been* forced to step in and make available grants of up to £8m. to overcome the immediate financial problems.

Consultants appointed by the Treasury, with the agreement of the NFC and the Department of the Environment, are examining the financial situation.

One possibility is a major reorganisation of the loss-making National Carriers small freight company. Carriers was responsible for some three-quarters of the £12.3m. NFC loss suffered in 1974.

Options likely to be considered range from a radical reduction of activities to a major investment programme to offer new and competitive services.

National Carriers is the former British Rail Sundries Division. It has not made a profit since the formation of the NFC in 1969. A major injection of capital would be necessary to rationalise the network of some 100 warehouses, *many of them old-fashioned* and unsuited to modern freight operations.

*In pressing for financial recon*struction, Sir Daniel emphasises that "the burden of debt" which NFC carries from the past acts as a drain on resources which could be used to develop and expand profitable areas of the corporation's activities.

He points out that a private enterprise company which makes a loss simply waives payment of its dividend. But NFC has to borrow from the Government to *finance the deficit and must then* carry the burden of interest payments on the loan. In 1974, NFC paid out nearly £8m. in this way.

Another major complaint of NFC is the pension liabilities which it inherited from British Rail on taking over responsibility for National Carriers. In 1974, NFC paid out £2.8m. in this way, much of it in pensions paid to railway employees who retired before the corporation started trading in 1969.

Sir Daniel is also seeking *assistance with redundancy pay*ments as he maintains that a continuing process of job lose is inevitable

Parcels and small freight was highlighted in the Government's transport policy consultation document as "one area that needs further examination."

Money supply

IN THE table of changes in the money supply on this page yesterday the change in the growth of M3 during February should have read 1.5 per cent. and not 7.5 per cent. as published.

Continued from Page 1

No move on green pound

from Bonn. Later in the week he is expected to discuss the *whole issue with M. Francois-*Xavier Ortoli, president of the Commission. Depending on the *feelings of the governments con*cerned, a special council could be called or alternatively—and *this is the course* the British Government would prefer—the whole matter of farm fund *finances could be deferred and* not even mentioned at the May meeting.

If the discussion could be deferred until after the British Government has won agreement from the trade unions on the next stage of the wages policy *a decision on the green pound* would be that much easier.

Mr. Lardinois admitted that *a supplementary* agricultural budget for the EEC was now unavoidable—which will raise *the wrath of some countries*, Germany in particular—although he had been able to keep with*in his budget for the first five* months of the year. The Comissioner pointed out that the *Community's finance Ministers* were always saying agricultural policy was costing too much. At *the same time they knew they* were pursuing policies which were costing a lot of money.

It was clear that the British Treasury was included in Mr. Lardinois's remarks since the *Treasury could not countenance* a change in the green pound which would increase food *prices at the present crucial time* in the battle against inflation and in the period when the TUC is making up its mind on the next stage of wages policy. Mr. Lardinois said he appreciated British Ministers' *desires to* "keep food prices as quiet as possible" at present.

Some progress was made towards minor savings in the amount of MCAs paid to Britain. *Five or six schemes were dis*cussed including Mr. Lardinois's suggestions that MCAs should be *paid to exporters of food* to Britain instead of to food importers. Payments then would be *in stronger currencies* thus limiting the number of units of accounts involved. This could *save the EEC budget up to £65m.* a year, it is estimated, but ways would have to be found of ensuring that the full value of payments made to exporters is passed on to Britain's importers and consumers.

Weather

U.K. TO-DAY

Dry, sunny spells.

London, Cent. and S.W. England, Midlands

Sunny spells. Wind E. moderate. Max. 17C (63F).

S.E. England, E. Anglia

Cloudy, sunny intervals. Wind E. to N.E., moderate. Max. 14C (55F).

Channel Isl.

Sunny spells. Wind N.E., moderate or fresh. Max. 15C (59F).

Wales, N.W. England, Laks, W. Scotland, Glasgow, Highlands, Argyll

Sunny spells. Wind E., light or moderate. Max. 19C (66F).

N.E. England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen

Sunny intervals. Wind E. to N.E., *moderate*. Max. 13C (55F).

Outlook: Mostly dry, sunny spells.

Lighting-up: London 20.36, Manchester 20.50, Glasgow 21.05, Belfast 21.08.

BUSINESS CENTRES

		Y'day Mid-day °C	°F			Y'day Mid-day °C	°F
Amsterdm	S	15	59	Manchstr.	F	16	61
Athens	S	19	66	Melbourne	S	19	66
Barcelona	S	16	61	Mexico C.	S	23	73
Beirut	S	19	66	Milan	F	21	70
Belfast	S	14	57	Montreal	S	19	66
Belgrade	F	21	70	Moscow	S	8	46
Berlin	S	13	55	Munich	F	18	64
Birmnghm.	S	16	61	Newcastle	S	11	52
Bristol	S	15	59	New York	H	28	82
Brussels	S	18	64	Oslo	F	14	57
Budapest	F	21	70	Paris	S	21	70
B. Aires	C	14	57	Perth	S	26	79
Cairo	S	23	73	Prague	S	17	63
Cardiff	S	15	59	Reykjavik	C	8	46
Cologne	F	20	68	Rio de J'o	S	30	86
Copenhgn.	S	21	70	Rome	C	19	66
Dublin	S	11	52	Singapore	C	30	86
Edinburgh	S	11	52	Stockholm	R	8	46
Frankfurt	S	19	66	Strasbourg	S	20	68
Geneva	S	17	63	Sydney	R	21	70
Glasgow	S	15	59	Tehran	C	21	70
Helsinki	C	6	43	Tel Aviv	S	19	66
Hong Kong	C	21	77	Tokyo	R	17	63
Jo'burg	C	25	77	Toronto	S	14	57
Lisbon	C	13	56	Vienna	C	17	63
London	S	17	63	Warsaw	S	10	50
Luxembg	S	18	64	Zurich	F	18	64
Madrid	F	14	57				

HOLIDAY RESORTS

		Y'day Mid-day °C	°F			Y'day Mid-day °C	°F
Ajaccio	T	16	61	Jersey	S	15	59
Algiers	C	18	64	Ls. Palms.	S	19	66
Biarritz	C	14	57	Locarno	F	20	68
Blackpool	S	16	61	Majorca	T	18	64
Bordeaux	F	20	68	Malaga	F	18	64
Boulogne	S	15	59	Malta	F	17	63
Casblnca.	C	17	63	Nairobi	S	24	75
Cape Town	S	22	72	Naples	F	17	63
Corfu	C	16	61	Nice	F	18	64
Dubrovnik	C	14	57	Oporto	C	14	57
Faro	F	18	64	Rhodes	C	18	64
Funchal	C	15	59	Salzburg	F	19	66
Florence	C	19	66	Tangier	F	17	63
Gibraltar	S	18	64	Tenerife	S	15	59
Guernsey	S	12	54	Tunis	F	18	64
Innsbruck	F	19	66	Valencia	S	18	64
Inverness	S	11	52	Venice	F	19	66
Istanbul	F	15	59				

C—Cloudy. S—Sunny. F—Fair. R—Rain. T—Thunderstorm. H—Haze

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